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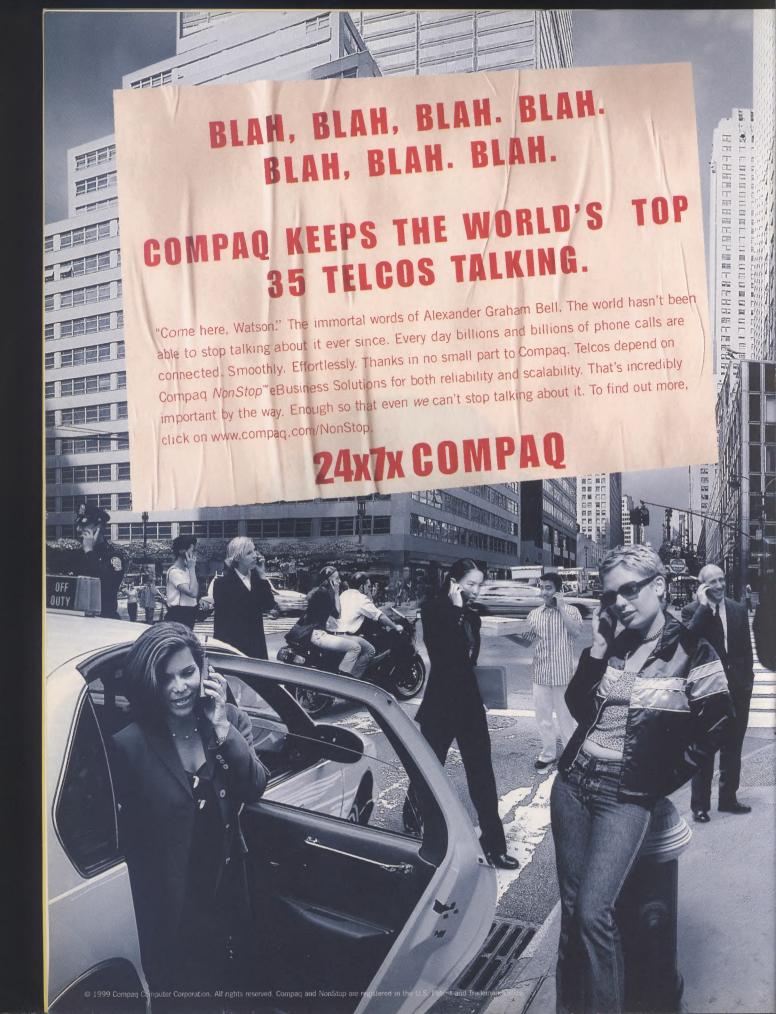


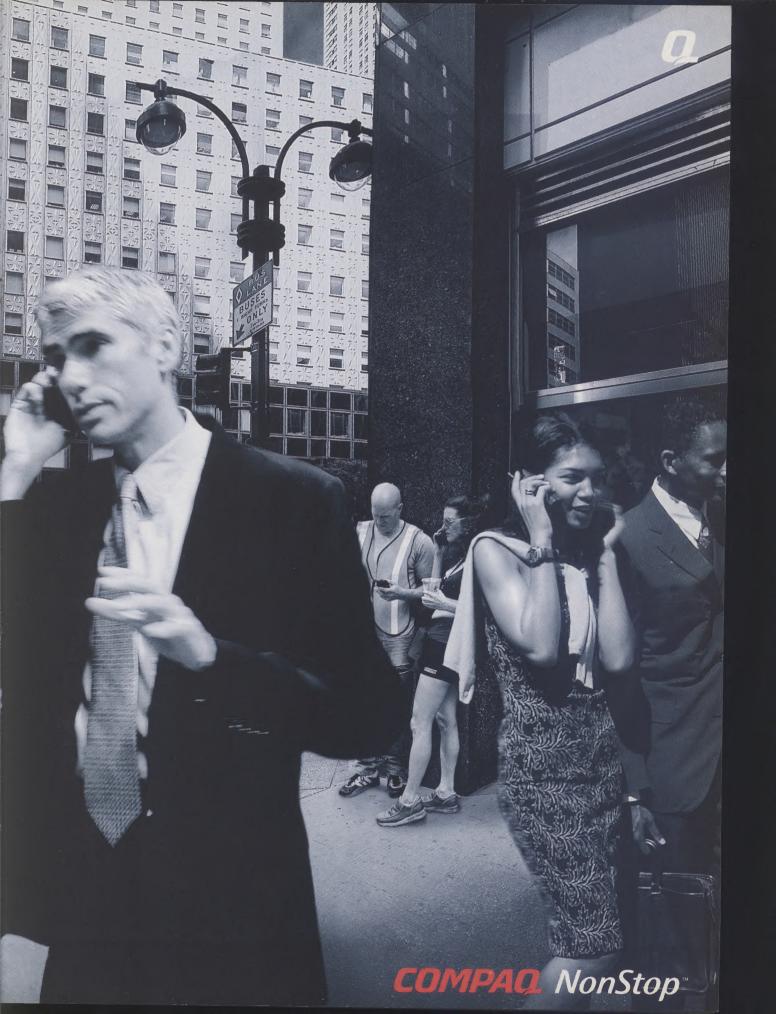
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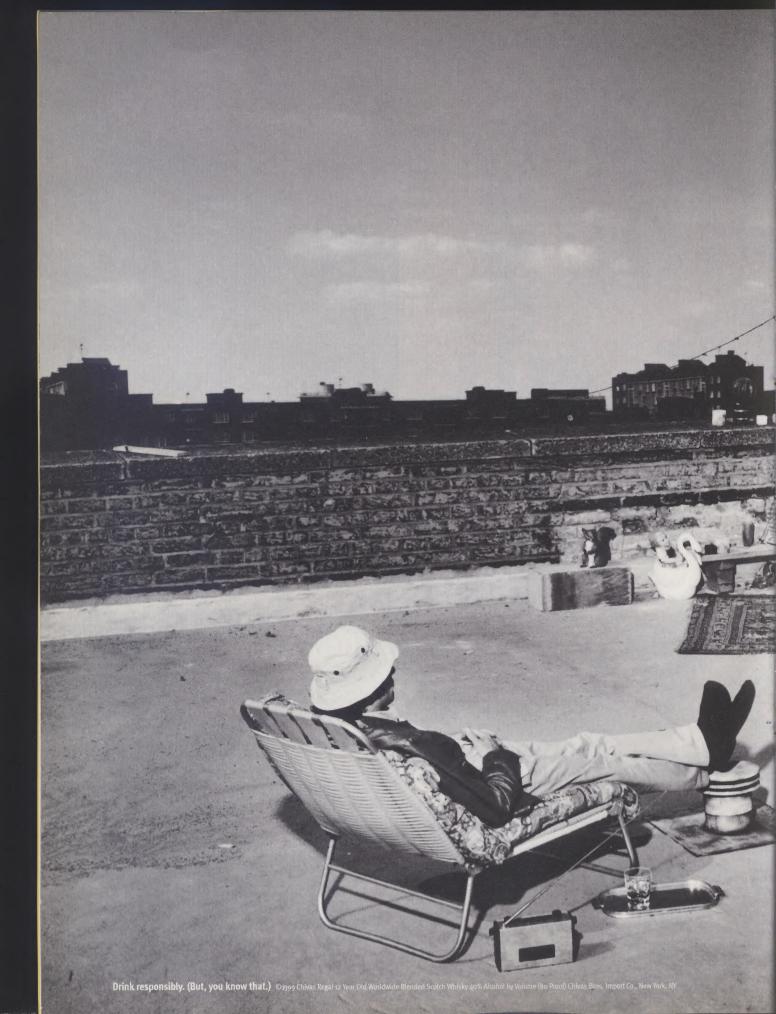
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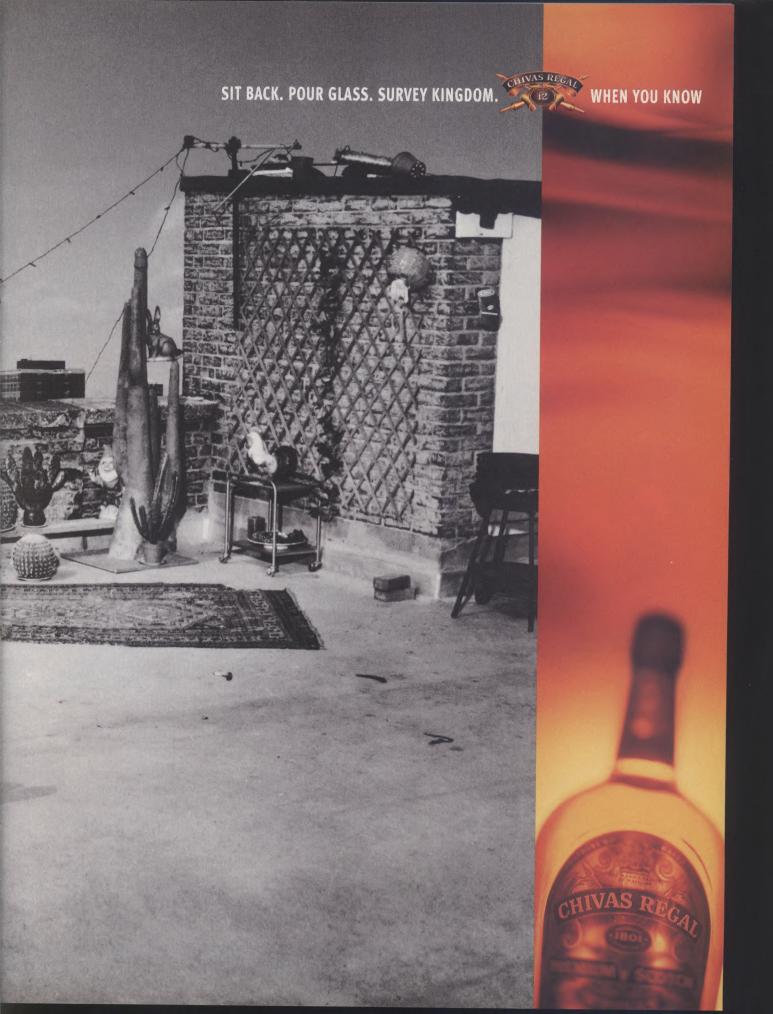
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WE DO THE HOMEWORK FOR YOU

In and Out of Space

OFTEN SAY WE PUBLISH THE WORLD'S WIDEST-ranging special-interest magazine. This month we prove that in spades—and clubs. The issue covers fashion, online wine clubs, auctions, design, politics, science fiction, game-playing clubs, and gambling, and that's just considering our features. Assuming you also spend some time

with the usual suspects in our up-front "Click!" section, and among the diverse topics in our backof-the-book "Web Guide," you know why we vow every month that our readers aren't going to get out of here without bumping into something new that interests them. For our part, it seems to us we have to keep up with everything, and that makes for fairly baroque and loose-jointed editorial conversations around the conference table.

Just to hit the highlights, there's our cover shoot

with one of today's hottest models, **ESTELLA**WARREN. You know her from those sexy Chanel
ads, and she'll be gracing a good number of gentlemen's magazines in the near future. But she
gets an early push, as so many do today, on the
Internet—namely, showing that a mouse is all
you need to be fully dressed. As a further service, **ELYSSA YOON-JUNG LEE** and **PAMELA DES**BARRES point out in "Under-Wired" how the
Internet has changed history by making it easy—
and unembarrassing—for guys to shop for lingerie for the women they love.

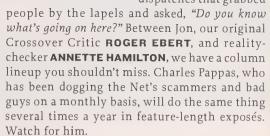
It's November, and even in an off-election year the political season is cranking up, so we present the second installment of our much-anticipated, much-feared list of "The 10 Most Net-Friendly Members of Congress (& the 5 Least Friendly)." You know, of course, that as long as campaigns are financed as they are now—by legal bribes—politicos will be bowing and scraping their way around Silicon Valley. But the real constituency

of the 21st century will be the stateless Internet crowd. So we've made up our scorecards for '99.

This month, also, two firsts: We're pleased to publish an excerpt from **WILLIAM GIBSON**'s new novel, *All Tomorrow's Parties*. It accompanies a searching interview about the Net's future conducted by executive editor **BEN GREENMAN**. Gib-

son has earned the right to speculate; it was he who coined the term cyberspace in his 1984 novel, Neuromancer.

And starting his monthly column for us is JON KATZ, who has been writing, vividly, about the Web in a variety of venues both online and off: Wired, HotWired, Rolling Stone. Jon was one of the earliest old-media folks (he was a producer at CBS News) to light out for this territory and write dispatches that grabbed



MODEL CITIZEN: Estella Warren at the photo shoot

Let's see: How far did I get? Fashion, politics, science fiction...ah, well. That's the thing about print; eventually you run out of space. Nice to have that other form of space, too, where we can click on, ceaselessly, into the future.

Barry Golson, Editor in Chief

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HOW DOES THIS MAGAZINE WORK WITH OUR WEB SITE?

Very nicely. If you read Y-Life solely in print, you're getting only half the story. Our Web site [www.yil.com] does for you daily what the magazine does monthly. In fact, it's your complete home base on the Web. You'll find expanded and enhanced versions of numerous articles from the magazine (and an archive of past issues), as well as nine Web-only daily features, including: ■ THE SURF GURU

■ THE SURF GURU
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Address Guide on page 37.

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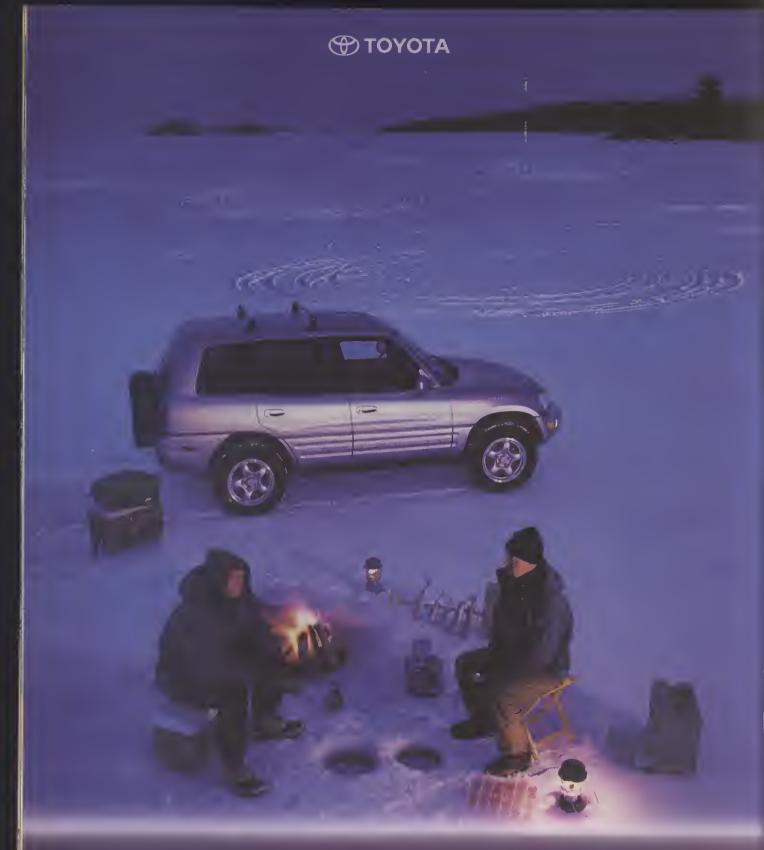
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FEATURES

POINT AND CHIC
By Elyssa Yoon-Jung Lee

Supermodel Estella Warren dresses up—and down—in some of the hippest fashions available on the Net

UNDER-WIRED
By Elyssa Yoon-Jung Lee
and Pamela Des Barres
The best places to shop for sexy lingerie online

COMPUTER COUTUREBy Cindy Waxer

Colorful designer computers are all the rage. But will it last?

THE 10 MOST NET-FRIENDLY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
By Declan McCullagh

Who are the Web's true allies on Capitol Hill? We have the answer

TROUBLE IN PARADISE
By Justin Ware

Internet betting operators have set up shop in the sunny Caribbean, but the U.S government is the one feeling burned

GELLAR DWELLERS
By Alissa Quart
Wine lovers have taken to the Net to argue life's
most important questions—such as, "Red or white?"

A WORLD OF THEIR OWN
By Marc Saltzman
Looking to escape reality, scores of gamers are just saying yes to online role-playing games

GOLD STAR SITES: AUCTIONS
By David Lidsky
We bid hello to the best auction sites around

ON THE COVER

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEAN RENARD
Pony halter by Margie Tsai: \$195, www.girlshop.com;
velvet asymmetric trumpet skirt by OMO Norma
Kamali: \$495, www.omo-norma-kamali.com





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CONTENTS



COLUMNS

- 79 ROGER EBERT CRITICAL EYE Surfing the Net as God intended—fast
- **JON KATZ INTERNET DOMAIN** Frankenstein, the Unabomber, and me
- 82 ANNETTE HAMILTON REALITY BYTES Hold the iPhone and keep holding

DEPARTMENTS

- **EDITOR'S NOTE**We have the Net covered like a blanket
- 28 BACKCHAT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 Our readers rant and rave
- 47 **CLICK!**Chasing Kevin Smith online...there's a *Riot* going on at MTV...the other kind of pillow talk...and what the heck is John Malkovich thinking, anyway?
- 84 **CUT & PASTE**Hotel hospitality and persecuted piñatas
- **GOOL TOOLS**Light laptops and the next generation of walkie-talkies
- **TOUCHED BY THE NET**Vietnam veterans create an online army of support
- 104 INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES
 Information on everything from poodles to politicians
- **OLD WAY/NET WAY**Telling time, tallying teens, and tempting tummies
- Y-LIFE INTERVIEW
 NET CLAIRVOYANT
 In 1984, science-fiction writer William Gibson coined the term *cyberspace*. Fifteen years later, he chats on the past, present, and future of technology
- **BOOK EXCERPT**A first look at William Gibson's latest novel,
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- NEW, NOTABLE & FUN REVIEWS
 3-D digital animation takes off...surgery support on the
 Net...forward-thinking folks look to Y10K...we're high
 on low-season travel offers...online blues explosion
- 213 WEB USER

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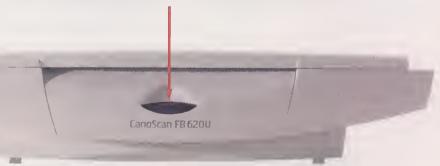
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BACKCHAT

YOU READ, YOU WRITE, WE PRINT

THE NET IN BLACK AND WHITE

I'm writing in reference to your article "The Net in Black & White" [September'99, page 126]. It seems to me that by creating Web sites specifically for a particular ethnic group, we extend those racial barriers that have been established in our society. The Internet is a great medium to try to implement Dr. Martin Luther King



Jr.'s concept of a color-blind society. The creation of federally funded programs to bring Internet access to minority groups means continuing to divide ourselves based on the color of our skin.

We should make information on the Internet appealing and accessible to everyone and anyone who wishes to learn from it.

> - Orlando Soto-Pastor: @aol.com

WE ALL MAKE CHOICES

As a 50-year-old white, middle-class woman, I take great exception to "The Net in Black & White." I am neither a college graduate nor am I rich. My job takes me into homes of all cultures and income levels. After many years of observation, I have come to realize that we acquire the things we want.

Time after time, I go into homes where big-screen TVs, cable boxes, and expensive stereo systems are present, but rarely do I see a computer. Whose choice was that? I made my choice many years ago to forgo the new TV and purchase a computer for my son. With computers so cheap today, the only reason that a family doesn't have one is because they choose not to.

Your article states that people of color are sick of going to Web sites, message boards, and chat rooms that contain hostile views. My advice to you is the same as I tell everyone—don't go there!

-Carolyn Burrows:

@softcom.net

THE WIRED EDUCATION

I enjoyed the article "How America Uses the Net," in the September 1999 Anniversary Issue [page 100]. For all of us taking college courses online, the one thing you left out was the virtual student. I know you have written in past issues about online education, but if a Pez collector can make the list, why not a virtual student?

Those of us who know the benefits of learning online have a hard time convincing the cynics who believe that traditional education is the only way. I hope that you plan to do more articles on this issue in the future. Also, it would be great to have an updated list of colleges going online and their degree programs and offerings every couple of months.

Thanks for being openminded in the cyberworld.

-Amy: @aol.com

LOVE THE NEW LOOK

Wow! A great fan of *Y-Life*, I recently picked up the Sep-



tember'99 issue. I congratulate you on your anniversary. Also, I love the new design! Keep up the great work!

-Bryan Crain:
@startrekmail.com

INVESTOR INFO WANTED

I have just finished reading your September issue, and as usual I enjoyed it greatly, with many ideas and things to clip out. However, I realize that there is very little information, and no special section, for the active online investor—technical-analysis Web sites, wireless stock quote Web sites, etc.

Just as your September issue has a "Gold Star Sites" article surveying the field for car buyers [page 130], how about a survey of which sites are available for active investors in the stock market?

-B. Kenmore: @aol.com
>> We plan on doing a "Gold Star"
roundup of personal-finance sites,
many of which will be investororiented. Stay tuned. -Ed.<<

NUDE IS CRUDE

I'd like to know exactly how many e-mails you got denouncing your "Lara Uncovered" articlette (is that a complaining so much.

word?) [August '99, "Click! Games," page 52]. Even I, a person who does not normally write angry letters, must wonder at what goes on over there at Y-Life when you allow a link to a porn-ish site to be printed in a supposed family magazine!

-Stephan Ahonen: @iname.com

>> Yours is actually the only letter we've received on this topic thus far. Y-Life is not, by definition, a "family magazine"—not, at least, in the same sense that our sister publication, Family PC, is completely family focused. While that doesn't mean we invite or encourage pornography, it does mean that we have the latitude to share, with the appropriate "adults only" disclaimer, mature content with our readers.—Ed. <<

ZIP IT

Why must readers write in every issue to complain about something rude/sick/offensive that *Y-Life* has reviewed in a previous issue? People still don't get it. What they find rude/sick/offensive isn't perceived in the same light by others. Don't like it? Great. Don't read it. But don't take away my right to read it, by complaining so much



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BACK CHAT

I have three words of advice for those people: Flip the page!

-Teri L.: @yahoo.com

A TALE OF

I was happy to see a mention of the IslamiCity Web site, along with a nice explanation of its many features in "Click! Communities" [September '99, page 40]. However, one mistake was made. The picture used in the article had the caption "Mecca." The Dome of the Rock depicted behind the three Palestinian women is a dead giveaway that it is not Mecca, but, in fact, Ierusalem.

—Anayat Durrani, Editor, Islam in the United States: @aol.com

BROADCASTING'S WEB FUTURE

Interactive radio? Sure! David Kushner's article in vour August issue, "Radio Daze" [page 148], details the future of broadcasting: Webcasting. After having worked in television and radio for more than 20 years as a journalist and DJ (a loooong time ago), I've come to believe that traditional broadcasting will have to start looking over its shoulder at the Net, and specifically at broadband, cable modems, and DSL.

Broadcasters have lost market share to cable and satellite. Now the future is of "niche" television, be it entertainment or educational. Soon Netizens will be able to design their own evening broadcast. Media Week reports that Americans are leaving the traditional television model for Web-based content and entertainment. Sound &

Vision (formerly Stereo Review) reports Web-based radio listening levels approaching 20 percent.

What's happening? Democracy. It's a wonderful thing.

> -Russ Jamieson: @mindspring.com

CALLING US ON AREA CODES

Regarding "Old Way/Net Way" by David Sheff in your September '99 issue [page 86]: OK, so I need an area code, and I'd like to find it the Old Old Way. So I open my local phone directory to page 9, scan the columns until I find Indiana and—can you believe it? The area code for Gary is listed right there (above Indianapolis and below Fort Wayne). Elapsed time, including finding the phone book: less than a minute.

-Mark Hepburn:

@sontheimeroffshore.com
>> Next time I'll let my fingers
do the walking! —D.S.<</pre>

MP3S ENCOURAGE CD PURCHASES

This is in response to your article titled "Out of Tune" [August '99, page 124]. It never fails to amaze me the paranoia dreamed up by corporate America and the subsequent committees created to quell the evergrowing "rebellious youth" of our country.

With the advent of the MP3 compression format, corporations are again wrought with fear that their companies will go bankrupt, or suffer serious losses, because every Joe in America will be able to download their music instead of paying for it. And just to point out, that is

what MP3 is: a compression format, not music.

I have MP3s; most are from my own CDs that I compressed myself and uncompress later to make my own CDs, and some I've downloaded from the Internet. Record companies should take heed: I've purchased more CDs since downloading MP3s than I would have had I not. I listened to one song from Sarah Brightman and went out and purchased her CD. I listened to two songs from the Chemical Brothers and bought all of their CDs.

Try to stay away from concluding that just because MP3s are out there, every person with Internet access will want them.

-Larry Willis: @yahoo.com

THE MP3 HYPE

In "Backchat" in the September '99 issue [page 23]. I read that the MP3 format is still under discussion. I don't understand what the fuss is all about. My son introduced me to MP3 a few weeks ago, asserting that it was the greatest thing since sliced bread. Since he downloaded the software for me, I have been trying to find music for it. I have concluded that MP3 is a sales hype looking for a market.

About all I have been able to find when I search on MP3 is a Web page trying to sell me some "newer, better, greater, more enhanced," etc., ad nauseam piece of software to play MP3 files.

On the one occasion that I was able to get an MP3 file to download (I still don't know how *that* happened), it took forever.



There's nothing like a good drink after a long, hard Millennium.

The Crown Royal millennium edition. Available in specially marked boxes while supplies last.



BACK CHAT

You can have MP3s—I'll stay with my CDs, thank you very much.

-John Shelton:
@lowcountry.com

and portal, by a licensing partnership, but that we are editorially independent. This gives us the freedom to call 'em as we see 'em.—Ed.<

POP-UP ADS

I find it kind of funny that in the "Yippee! Yahooey" section of "Click! Attitude" [August '99, page 581 you write, "Popups be gone." Well, I totally agree with you on the Ya-hooey thing. But then I go to one of the many GeoCities personal home pages, only to receive a pop-up every time I go to a new page. It used to be advertising for GeoCities, but lately I noticed the Yahoo! logo along with it. I know the Yahoo! search engine and Y-Life aren't related much beyond the name, but you guys should take vour own advice with the pop-up stuff.

-Brent Hellickson:
@netlinkcom.com
>>For our perspective, please
see our response to the next

RAH FOR YAHOO! SPORTS

letter. - Ed. < <

You left out one very good sports site from your review list in July: YAHOO! SPORTS ["Gold Star Sites: Sports," page 112]. You sold the site short, my friends. Yahoo! Sports is a very fine sports site, with nearly every stat one could ever want. And the site's Fantasy Baseball is the best I have ever seen! It belongs at the top of the list.

-Russ Bushaw: @flashmail.com

>> We explain in our opening pages that Y-Life is linked to Yahoo!, the Web directory

PRESCRIPTIONS AND Y2K: DON'T PANIC

Writer Annette Hamilton has joined the ranks of the very same media she criticizes for inciting Y2K panic. Her article, "Will the Y2K Sky Really Fall?" [August '99, page 108] contains doomsayer's advice regarding people's ability to get their prescription medications.

Both the pharmaceutical industry and the U.S. government agree that consumers should refill their prescriptions in preparation for Y2K as they would normally: When they have a fiveto seven-day supply remaining. Local pharmacies typically have access to a 90-day drug supply. This access to medications has been tested during emergencies or interruptions in the supply due to hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. The pharmaceutical industry has successfully delivered prescription medications during these crises. It has built on this experience to prepare for any Y2K disruptions.

In fact, consumer overbuying could pose a greater threat to the drug-distribution system than Y2K itself.

Your readers can learn more about how to responsibly prepare for Y 2 K by visiting the

Sign up at www.efax.com

or forward instantly. eFax.com is simple. It's quick. And it's free.

So even if the Fax-oids say they'll fax you anyway, you can

get their faxes anywhere. By email.

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Web site of the **PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YEAR 2000 CON-VERSION** [www.y2k.gov] or the U.S. Consumer Gateway's site of federal information on Y2K [www.consumer.gov/y2k].

-Phil Schneider, Mark Grayson, Sherry Haber, and Ken Whittemore, on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Alliance for Y2K Readiness

I FOUND THE B.S., ALL RIGHT

When I saw your cover headline "Y2K=B.S.: Why You Don't Have to Worry" [August '99], I bought a copy, hoping to finally find a factual rebuttal to all those disturbing Y2K reports of the past year. Instead, I was met with the kind of slapstick "yeah, right" logic I thought reporters had discarded months ago.

I don't understand how Annette Hamilton can preach hype, hysteria, and hoax, then admit a few paragraphs later that Y2K failures could "severely cripple or shut down" 750,000 small businesses in this country and damage 4 million more. If that's a postscript of a problem, then I'm the one who's not paying attention.

Maybe working for a major magazine makes her feel that she can laugh at the little guys' troubles. I do wonder if big companies are that much more effective, or just have more hiding places for the truth. I don't get the feeling the author asked herself that, or wondered what she would do when thousands of displaced people were after her job—and worse. Personally, I think writing a cutesy, dismissive article about a problem that could threaten lives and entire economies worldwide=BS

-Amy Cecil: @yahoo.com

Y2K IS A-OK

I just wanted to say that I liked Annette Hamilton's Y2K article. It's nice to hear some sanity from the media (and a sense of humor is a plus). Thanks!

> -Prett Sahota: @eden.rutgers.edu

AUTHOR. AUTHOR!

Please send a copy of this correspondence to Matt Goldberg. who wrote the piece in your "Web Guide" titled "Short Fiction, Long Shadow" [September '99, page 168] about Jorge Luis Borges. In it, he mentioned my favorite author, Gabriel García Márquez, I founded a club [www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/ gabrielgarciamarquezl dedicated to Márquez. Should you ever have the opportunity to visit my club, please drop me a line and let me know how you enjoyed it.

Thanks for the nice things you had to say about magical realism and Gabriel García Márquez.

-A. Book:

COLLEGE DROPOUT

In the October "Web Guide" section, there was a misprint in the item about COLLEGESTU-DENT.COM on page 139. The correct URL is actually www.collegestudent.com (it was listed as www.collecom), and the site currently serves more than 800 college communities.

-Michelle Adams: @gttcom.com

Hey! We know you're out there! (We can hear you clicking.) Drop us a line at backchat@zd.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. If you don't want us to print your name, please let us know.

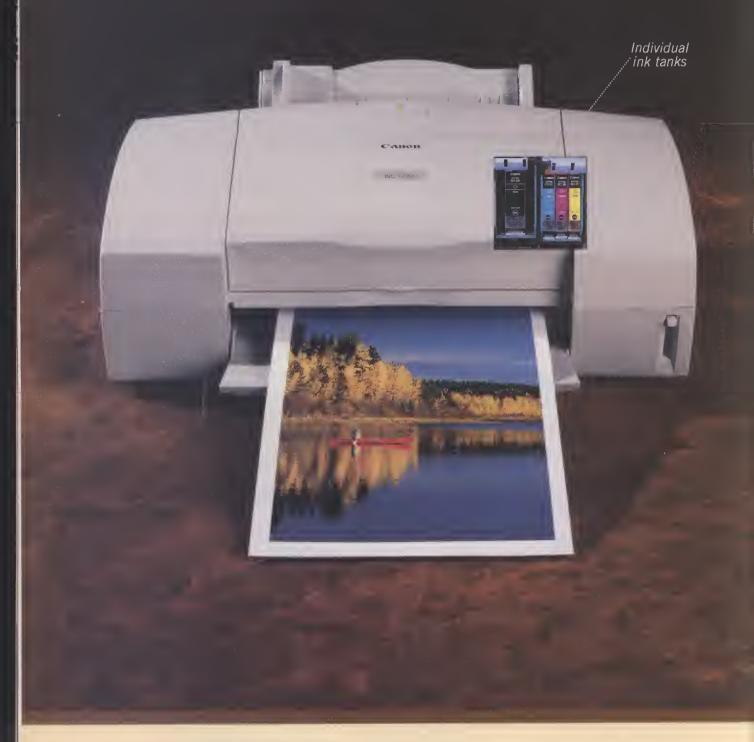


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- □ STYLECLICK.COM [styleclick.com]
- □ LANDS' ENO [landsend.com]
- I NORMA KAMALI [www.omo-norma-kamali.com]
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- ☐ JHANE BARNES [www.jhanebarnes.com]
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UNDER-WIRED (PAGES 138-142)

- □ FOGAL.COM [fogal.com]
- □ WWW.HANES.COM [www.hanes.com]
- ☐ MAIOENFORM [www.maidenform.com]
- ☐ HANRO OF SWITZERLAND [www.hanro.com]
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(PAGES 148-154)

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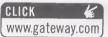
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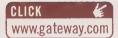
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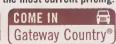
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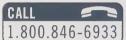
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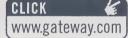
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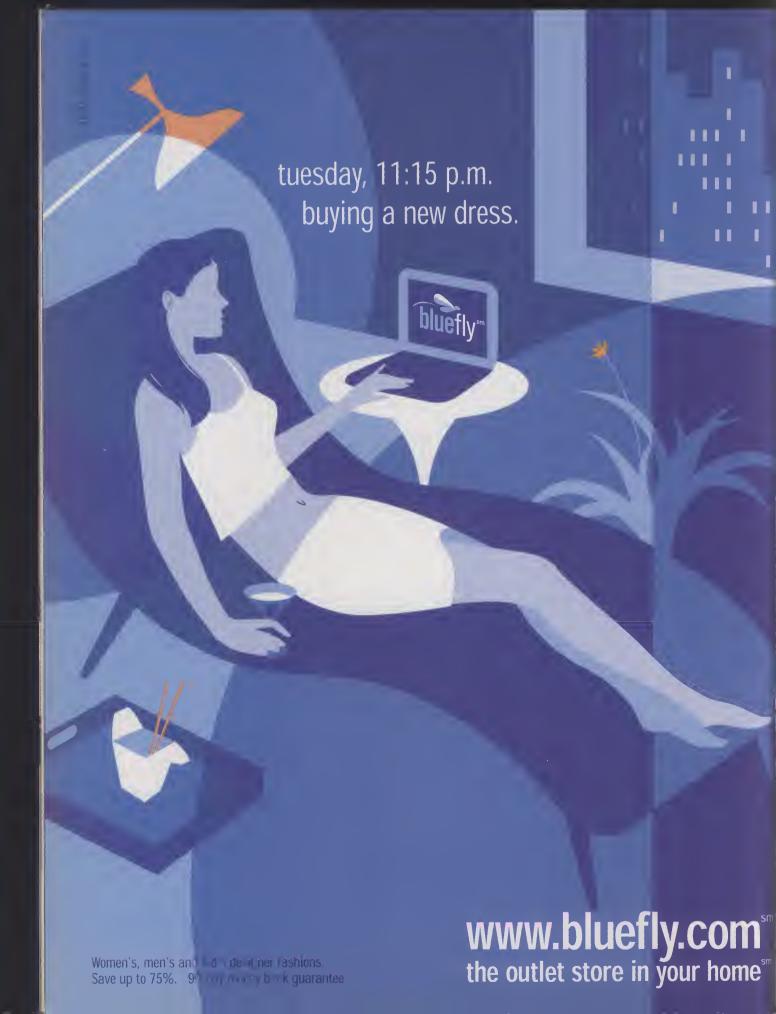
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NETOBSESSIONS

BRADY ANDERSON While the buff Baltimore Orioles center-fielder kicks back in the off-season, his adoring fans (women and men alike) keep on crafting sites in his name. Start @: THE BRADY ANDERSON WEBRING [members.tripod.com/~amyuilani/brady.html]

Y-QUOTIENT: 90*



LIMP BIZKIT The alterna-metal band has conquered Woodstock and the charts. And with almost IOO fan sites, the Web is next. Start@: LIMP BIZKIT [internettoilet.com/users/limpbizkit]
Y-0UOTIENT: 95°

PATRICIA ARQUETTE

Surfers are possessed by the Stigmata star's luscious looks and newly discovered dramatic range. Start@:

PATRICIA ARQUETTE
[heartspace.
simplenet.com/
Arquette]
Y-QUOTIENT: 75*

* The Y-quotient = site tallies from Yahoo! and AltaVista, plus the Click Clique's impeccably good taste. HEAVEN [www.mohammad-ali.com], isn't Ali's official site (that's expected later this year). Rather, these pages offer a substantive pictorial history of the

former Cassius Clay's
ascent to greatness.
Besides a summary of
select fights—
from his first
professional

matchup to the famous 1964 bout against Sonny Liston—you'll find early glimpses of a man known as much for his rhymes as for his uppercut. "When you come to the fight, don't block the aisle and don't block the door," he once instructed. "You will all go home after round four." And they did. Ali's fists moved just as fast as his mouth.

ALI: The once and future icon gets his props.

:// memorable site

An Ode to the Greatest

N HIS HEYDAY, MUHAMMAD ALI WAS NOT JUST A champion boxer but a noted agitator, poet, and antiwar hero as well. He talked a lot of trash. He pissed off the press. It was part of his charm. Matt Bullis's self-described "love song" to the onetime heavyweight champion of the world, THE PRINCE OF

quotables

'I think the millennium is just another year and another century. Nothing special.'

-THE DALAI LAMA, during his America Online chat event.

WEBSTATS

69 PERCENT

The portion of workers who say they surf the Web for fun either "constantly" or "a few times a day" during work hours, according to a VaultReports.com poll.

THE CLICK CLIQUE: JAMES OLIVER CURY, PAMELA DES BARRES, DEAN FOUST, MICHAEL FREIDSON, LYNN GINSBURG, OAVIO KUSHNER, REUBEN MANESS, KAREN L. MILLER, FRANCIS RIZZO III, MARIA SEMINERIO, MARC SALTZMAN. WRITE TO CLICK@ZO.COM.

A GIGK NEWS

://lifestyles of the well connected

Ego Surfing

Y-Life clicks with rocker Tommy Lee, a widely exposed Web legend

AUGHTY-BOY MÖTLEY CRÜE DRUMMER Tommy Lee will soon release Methods of Mavhem, his first solo album, along with a Web site of the same name [www.methodsofmayhem.com]. The music is hard, amusing, edgy, and slightly wicked-not unlike Tommy himself. But besides being musically active,

Lee surfs the Web a bit, too. "I live on it...all the time." So where might you find him? Lee grins. "TRAUMA. COM is really whacked. You talk to a big penis with this crazy monster head on it, and you can ask it any question you want, then press the button and it answers you! You better check it out!" Sure, right away, Tommy. [Editor's note: It seems that this site has itself experienced a trauma; at press time, it had

It turns out he even shops online. "I bought lots of books from AMAZON.COM. That's the only way I could get books in jail. The Conversations with God books. My lawyer ordered them. Yeah. Amazon.com. I'll have to thank those dudes on the album."

> Any other online shenanigans? "Every several months or so, I'll type in my name, and all these [porn] sites come up—all these places selling the video [referring, of course, to the steamy bootlegged home movie he made with ex-wife Pamela Andersonl, and I'll just trip

out....There's no way I can go through 'em all. They're sellin' it, they're showin' it, It's just so weird to click over,

knowing everybody is watching it with me. It's absolutely crazy. Because here I am, a musician, right? Then all of a sudden, I'm a porno star!" Hmmm, wonder how that happened. -P.D.B.

WEBSTATS

suspended operation.]

MILLION

The combined number of messages sent daily via ICQ and the AOL Instant Messenger and Buddy List services, according to America Online estimates.

MILLION

The average number of letters mailed each day via the U.S. Postal Service, according to U.S.P.S. estimates.

Source: America Online

WHAT'S A FEW MILLION?

While you took that week-long summer vacation, how much did your portfolio lose or gain? If you're Bill Gates or Michael Eisner, the answers could be pretty dramatic. We had the CEO WEALTH METER [www. nordby.com/ceometer.asp] track the company holdings of some well-known chieftains for one week in late August.

CEO	8/20 Close	8/27 Close	Gain/Loss
Bill Gates, CEO, Microsoft	\$90,185,715,290	\$100,867,381,719	\$10,681,666,429
Michael Eisner, CEO, Disney	\$327,589,860	\$319,365,847	\$8,224,013
Louis Gerstner, CEO, IBM	\$52,890,391	\$53,867,832	\$977,441
Larry Ellison, CEO, Oracle	\$8,157,481,279	\$8,157,481,279	\$0
Michael Deli, CEO, Dell Computer	\$9,583,372,831	\$8,807,030,543	\$776,342,288
	ents the portfolio's value	and the send of the devices	forward.

NETBRIEFS.11/99

FTC WATCHING FREERIES The Federal Trade Commission has its collective eve fixed on "free PC" deals. Tohy Levin team leader of the FTC's Internet Advertising Group, said the agency is examining "whether there's adequate information being provided [for] consumers [to] evaluate the offers."...FORD VS. MOTOR-MOUTH The Detroit automaker recently obtained a restraining order against Robert Lane, a Dearborn, Michigan, man who has been posting Ford internal memos at BLUEOVALNEWS.COM. Not long after, a federal court overturned that order. Lane claims that anonymous Ford workers sent him the memos, which discuss such hot topics as future Mustang designs. He vows to keep on posting.... WITH LOVE, FROM BEIJING Now it can be told. When NATO forces mistakenly bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade last May, the Chinese responded -by spamming the NATO Web site, according to Lieutenant General William Donahue, commander of the Air Force Communications and Information Center at the Pentagon, in a recent statement. Donahue declined to say if the attacks originated from government computers.... YOU CAN STILL EAT POPCORN Cyberthriller The Quantum Project will debut online next year, billed as the first feature film produced specifically for Webcasting. The film's production companv. Metafilmics, won an Academy Award

last year for its specialeffects work on What Dreams May Come MEIN KAMPF VERBOTEN

German media powerhouse Bertelsmann removed

Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf from its online bookstore, after complaints from German authorities. Sales of the racist manifesto are illegal in Germany....DON'T COPY THAT CD Jeffrey Gerard Levy pleaded guilty to selling copyrighted music, software, and movies on his Web sitethe first person to be prosecuted under the No Electronic Theft Act of 1997. Levy faces up to three years in jail and fines of up to \$250,000. -M.S.

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Click COMMUNITIES

CAMWATCH

MULTI-CULTURAL RECYCLER [shoko. calarts.edu/~alex/ recycler.html]



This is not vour everyday slice of Web cam voveurama.

The Multi-Cultural Recycler creates "shredded" collages of images randomly pulled from various Web cams. Visitors click on the Image Recycler to start the process, which results in a new and unique piece of art every time. Artist/ Webmistress Amv Alexander hopes to elevate once-mundane Web cam shots into something sublime. "Remember when Andy Warhol said that in the future everyone would be famous for 15 minutes?" she asks. "If we recycle [Web cam images] we oughta be able to stretch it to around 20." Verv generous of her, no?

CLUBSCENE

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- **4** LA GREEDY **ASSOCIATES**
- 5 GAY COPS AND **MILITARY GUYS**
- **6 GREEDY SUMMER ASSOCIATES**
- **7 THE NCO CLUB**
- 9 AMERICA'S YOUNG **REPUBLICANS**
- **10 EMPEROR MIGHTY**



Hailing from New Hampshire, the

election pundits at the **PRIMARY DINER** [www.primarydiner. com] are already slinging opinions and casting votes for the next White House race—and you're invited to slide into a corner booth and join the chat. PD editor in chief

Drew Casey wants to bring surfers closer to "the conversations and debates about Primary 2000 that occur in the town halls, village greens, and diners across New Hampshire" with this political zine and hub. And from what we've seen here, it works.

As is the case at any greasy spoon, PD abounds, in a section called the Booth, with lively commentary from everyday voters on the current crop of White House candidates. We dropped in on the most populated discussion, "Dan, the weak man!," in which two dozen visitors pondered Dan Quayle's ability to lead, his potential agenda, and, of course, his legendary potatoe spelling blunder. "Dan is so

weak. His wife wears the pants in the family. We hope Dan sees the light and pulls out of the race," says one rather vocal

visitor. In general, the posts at Primary Dinerare mature and focused. Rest assured, most of the fare at this pol eatery is low-fat-and there's plenty of it to go around.

SHE GOT GAME

If you tell one of the "Bettys" at INDYGIRL [www.indygirl.com] that soccer and basketball are the only professional women's sports you know of, she may just say "Boo-ya!" to that. Confused? Find out what she means at this

created by and for the extreme female athlete. It's where you'll find reports on the down-anddirty details of snowboarding, skateboarding, and other ath-

virtual women's locker room.

DRAW A CIRCLE

Well, you've heard that Cousin Beverly's baby girl looks just like her mom, but alas, there aren't any pictures in your mailbox. Maybe if Bev knew about the ECIRCLES COM network of family hangouts, she would post some pics for you and the rest of the family to see.

Inspired to share some scenes from my recent rafting trip, I created a free Kushner family eCircles group, including a photo



the soccer field; Indygirls seek bigger thrills.

letic pursuits, as well as the cultural aspects-including slang terms and fashions-of these fast-rising sports. Bettys (that is, girl jocks) are encouraged to chat it up among themselves, and on occasion the site invites such sports goddesses as Olympic snowboarding bronze medalist Shannon Dunn to join in the action. By the way: The Indygirl slang dictionary lists the meaning of Boo-ya! as "Get out of my face." Harsh.

album, chat room, and message board. After I sent out some invites to this private confab, cousins wrote back about their kids, their jobs, and their vacations. I uploaded those rafting pics, chatted with my Florida cousins, and linked to a friend's home page.

This virtual, year-round Thanksgiving Day dinner works well—but we're still waiting for Cousin Beverly. Are you out there. Bev?



FORWARD >

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Up & Coming

FILM

Feeling stuck in your dead-end job? Don't look to BRINGING OUT THE DEAD [paramount.com] for inspiration, Martin Scorsese's latest dramatic turn features Nicolas Cage as a paramedic working the graveyard shift in New York's once tawdry, now trendy Hell's Kitchen. As if that's not numbing enough, he's haunted by the ghosts of ambulance passengers whose lives he failed to save. To get a better tour of this fabled 'hood than you'll see from the ambulance. head over to HELL'S KITCHEN ONLINE [hellskitchen.net], where community slide shows, restaurant recommendations, and historical profiles of the New York City neighborhood heat up the computer screen....Speaking of heat, it's definitely on for musicvideo director Spike Jonze, as he makes his big-screen directorial debut with BEING JOHN MALKOVICH [reellife.com/works/

ABOVE: The Goo Goo Dolls. RIGHT: Malkovich being Malkovich.

beingjohn]. The film stars John Cusack as Craig Schwartz, a downon-his-luck street puppeteer who discovers a pathway into actor John Malkovich's brain. While entering the mind of an intense actor might seem frightening to some. Schwartz and friends see it as an opportunity to score some cold, hard cash. Offbeat? Perhaps, but better Malkovich than, say, Emilio Estevez, no?

MUSIC

Former Clash member Joe Strummer certainly did rock the casbah, but that was 18 years ago. Now he's taking another stab at solo stardom with Rock, Art & the X-Ray Style, on which the punk icon and the Mescaleros, his backup band, rip through new material

reminiscent of

is Strummer's first on HELL CAT RECDRDS [hell-cat.com]. If you're feeling nostalgic, hop over to the Clash retrospective at LDNDDN'S BURNING! [www.geocities.com/ SunsetStrip/Palladium/I0281, an impressive collection of interviews, articles, and concert reviews from the band's hevday. This month, the group itself is releasing From Here to Eternity. an anthology of live performances from 1978 to 1982. After a month or so back on campus, it's time for America's

such later Clash titles as Sandin-

istaland Combat Rock. The release

collegians to take a break. The MP3.com Music and Technology Tour, which hits campuses this month, is as good a reason as any to skip a class or two. As the tour's headline act, the Goo Goo Dolls will play alongside such attractions as a technology fair and an extreme-lifestyle zone. Each stop on the tour will also feature performances from local bands highlighted at MP3.COM. Head to the site for dates and locations.

ART

Washington's Smithsonian Institution hosts AN EDWARD HOPPER SCRAPBOOK [www. nmaa.si.edu/hopperl, in conjunction with its exhibit now in progress. In addition to offering views of Hopper's stirring images, the site shares audio clips of chats with the artist and correspondence written by and to him. Rare photos round

out this impressive

virtual exhibit.

LIVE

A SAMPLER OF NET EVENTS Updates at www.vlive.com

ON COMPUTERS RADID SHDW

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MDNDAYS

THUNK!

A game show with a twist. [www.allgames.com/index. asp?showid=331

TUESDAYS

MEDITER-RANEAN CUISINE

It's more than just pasta. [talkcity.com/calendar/ events/event3688.htmpl]

WEDNESDAYS

CHICAGO TRIBUNE CYBERCAST

Discuss the headlines. [chicagotribune.com/ news/nationworld/ ws/indx/0.1306 8857-18814,00.html

THURSDAYS

LITTLE FEAT RADID HDUR

Interviews, rare recordings from the veteran rockers. [www.twec.com/TW/ Onstage/OSOnline.asp? Mode=4]

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FRIDAY NIGHT 8DS RETRD SHDW

Relive the Reagan era. [www.whatson.net/retro]

SATURDAYS

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Drop in on Garrison Keillor's live radio show. [phc.mpr.org] -R.M.

overheard on the net

"We get a lot of feedback over the Internet, Some of the wiccans and witches feel we take too much dramatic license. We try to remind them that we're on a TV show."

HOLLY MARIE COMBS, witch Piper Halliwell on Charmed

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CONVERSATION WITH KEVIN SMITH.

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Buzz-**Smith**

The Dogma director looks for a little Net religion

lanis Morissette is God. Linda Fiorentino is a descendant of Jesus who works in an abortion clinic. Ben Affleck and Matt Damon? They're angels who take to gunning down innocent churchgoers. Sure, wilder rumors have sprouted on the Internet, but in these cases, the hearsay may actually be true.

The object of speculation is Dogma, the contentious new film from Kevin Smith that follows a pair of fallen angels scamming a passage to heaven. As the Catholic League vigorously attacked the film and Disney subsequently backed out as its distributor, the Net buzzed with gossip.

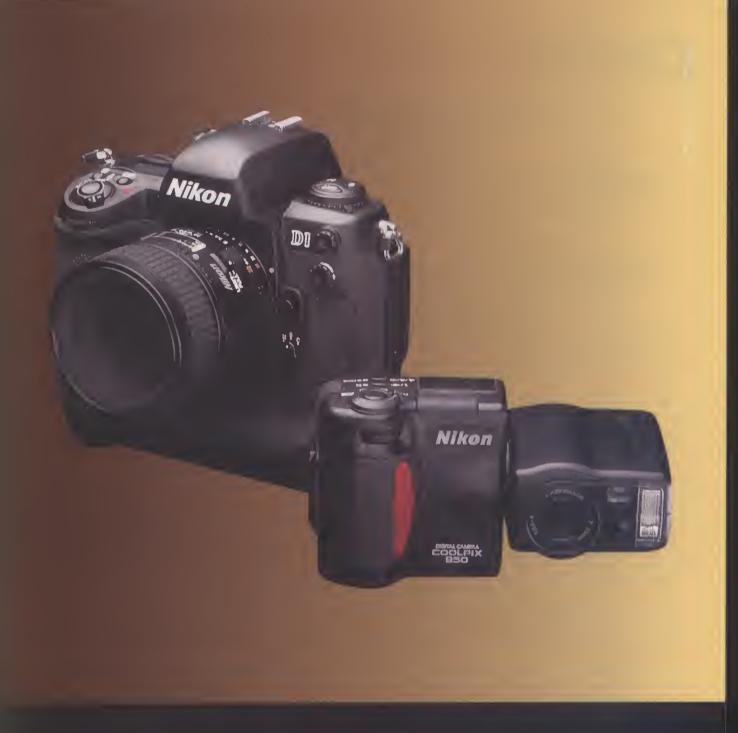
Throughout this tumult, you'll find Smith where few of his peers dare to go: online with his fans. The director, via his company's site, VIEW ASKEW PRODUC-TIONS [viewaskew.com], keeps up an online dialogue. Inviting visitors to the Chasing Amy premiere or asking them to be extras in Dogma are just two instances of Smith's relatively intimate rapport with his fan community. "The main interest for me as a filmmaker is communication," says Smith, "Rather than just making a movie for people to watch, I can actually talk to them about the process of making it."

So when the Dogma controversy started to simmer, fans swarmed to DOGMA RUMOR CONTROL [newsaskew.com/ dogmarc]. Now, "people are so anxious

to see this [film] because of the anticipation levels out there," says the site's cofounder, Brad Plevvak, "For a guy like Kevin, who has only been around for a few years, the amount of traffic

we're seeing is pretty astounding."

With the film due for release midmonth, the momentum at Dogma Rumor Control, the Kevin Smith newsgroup [alt.movies.kevin-smith], and Smith's official DOGMA site [dogma-movie.com] is building to Blair Witch Project proportions. And that doesn't surprise Smith: "Word-of-mouth pictures thrive on the Internet. That's all it is out there anyway-word of mouth." -D.R.



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Greetings from the crossroads of Art and Science. This is where the latest technology merges with the highest of aesthetic standards. Take note of the Coolpix® 950. 2.11 megapixels of resolution, a 3X Zoom-Nikkor lens, 256-element Matrix Metering, aperture/shutter priorities, and a 4,746-step autofocus. All leading to images so beautiful it seems inappropriate to describe them with such technical terms. And then there's Nikon D1.™ A new digital SLR for professionals. 2.74 megapixels, 4.5 frames per second for up to 21 consecutive shots, 3D Matrix Metering, at half the price of other pro digital cameras. If you're starting to get the feeling this is all new, uncharted territory, you're right. For more information, call 1-800-52-NIKON or visit us at www.nikonusa.com.

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GREATEST PICTURES: YOURS.

IIS IT A SLUG?

Shaped like something out of your ninth-grade biology text, the extremely comfy Ergo Pen, available at THE ERGO PEN [ergopen. coml, is offered in two models: A rubber thumb-grip plastic version comes in six colors (\$18); the upscale executive style (\$85, shown here) features a leather grip and is finished in aluminum. It's enough to make you write letters instead of e-mail. (Well, OK. it's not that cool.)

2 ROE TO GO

So, the party invites haven't been exactly overflowing your inbox, have they? Time to have a millennium party of your ownand don't forget the caviar. The Beluga Prime at CAVIARTERIA [www.caviarteria.com], known for its smooth. almost buttery taste, can be had for a dear \$58 per ounce at press time—and that price is bound to increase with last-minute demand. Remember, the early bird gets the eggs.

3 UP WITH DOWN

The silk and linen creations of PINTURA STUDIO [www.nystyle. com/pinturastudio] include this 24-inch Indian silk pillow, stuffed with down and hand-printed with an ancient Indian goldmetallic pattern on Dupioni silk (\$180). Use it to accent a window seat or your easy chair, and never even think of buying a Pier One knockoff again.

4 MOVING MUSIC When you're an

urban DJ, you

and your music must be extremely portable. The DJ Bag from CHROME [chromebags. com] (\$60, in disco red or glittery silver) was designed with spin-meisters in mind, though anyone can benefit from its smart design. It holds more than 30 vinyl records—or, if you're not a DJ but just want to accessorize like one, a laptop or your weekend change of clothes.

SHOPSMARTER

ome-theater buffs searching for VHS and DVD deals should add the MOVIEPRICEGUIDE. COM bargain-hunting tool to their prepurchase surfing ritual. This one-of-a-kind shopping agent focuses on the most up-to-date sales—including DVD and VHS coupon promotions. Participating Web storefronts include 800.com, Reel.com, Bigstar.com, DVD Express, and CDnow.

AUCTION ACTION

Sure, puppies are cute-until they leave their mark on vour antique Oriental rug. AIBO, Sony's robot dog, doesn't need housebreaking. Maybe that's why it's been fetching well above its original \$2,500 retail price. At EBAY [www.ebay. com], one AIBO went for \$4.100.

ON THE NET?

The Zoe Washlet Bidet (\$535) at CYBERBATH CATA-LOGUE [www.baths.com] boasts a heated seat, an air filtration system, and a cleansing warm-water spray. So where's the magazine rack?



PHOTOGRAPHS (EXCEPT BIDET): THOM O



What makes this printer one in a million? Start with the way it made this once-in-a-lifetime photo. Flawlessly. Quickly. In fact, in just minutes, the EPSON Stylus® Photo 750 ink jet printer delivered all this rich color by combining six inks for the smoothest gradation and perfect skin tones. And with 1440 dpi, no printer gives you more detail—just take a look at those blades of grass. It's no wonder your photos will end up on the mantle. Come to think of it, this printer might too

NOW YOU CAN HAVE BREATHTAKING COLOR PHOTOS AT RECORD-BREAKING SPEEDS.

Only Epson® printers have the PerfectPicture® Imaging System for: 6-color printing, 1440 x 720 dpi and quick-drying inks • Fast color printing on any paper-snapshots in 60 seconds • EPSON Digital PhotoLab™ software bundle with Polaroid PhotoMAX Pro, ArcSoft's PhotoPrinter, ArcSoft's PhotoBase," plus more • PC/Mac/USB compatibility • One-year Epson Exchange limited warranty. For more information, call 1-800-GO-EPSON or visit www.epson.com.



Epson Stylus Photo 750. Best for photos.

GICK GAMES

PICKS

The five most popular games at Pogo.com

- 1 SPADES
- 2 EUCHRE
- 3 HEARTS
- 4 RINGO: F7 WIN
- 5 BINGO: JACKPOT

Rankings reflect traffic at pogo.com for the week ending 8/29/99.



OPDEMOS

The five most popular games at GameSpot

- I MIDTOWN MADNESS
- 2 SYSTEM SHOCK
- 3 STAR TREK: STARFLEET COMMAND
- 4 STAR WARS FPISODE I BACER
- 5 CUTTHROATS: TERROR ON THE HIGH SEAS

Rankings reflect August downloads at gamesoot.com

TIPSHEET

DONALD WEAVER, a home repair/remodeling businessman from Seaside



I. Embrace your peers. Choose a table where people have the same rated skill level as you. Pogo.com assigns color

codes to each level--beginner through expert. 2. Newbies, take it easy. Beginners should play games that won't rate

you—they're fun and help

you learn in a noncompet-

itive atmosphere. 3. Going nil [bidding with the provision that you're not going to take any tricks] is a good way to win a game. But remember, it's too hard to go nil with four spades unless playing a twos-wild game.

://ground zero

Quiet Riot

Some 25.000 Web gamers click along with MTV's on-air players

LAYING THE HOME VERSION OF A TV GAME SHOW used to mean hauling some dusty *leopardy!* or Password box out of the closet. Not so with MTV's new daily game show, WebRiot, in which four in-studio contestants play simultaneously with as many as 25,000 Web surfers at MTV ONLINE [www.mtv.com].

The game zeroes in on contemporary music and music-video trivia. Surfers with a television set near their PC answer questions about the clips they're watching on the TV show. Two winners one in the studio and the other somewhere out there in Webland—share the daily spotlight at the end of each broadcast. The studio winner receives such prizes as computers or video-game systems, whereas Web winners may get flown to sunny Los Angeles to audition for the show.

Steve Hoffman, cofounder of Spiderdance, the de-



TRIVIA TEST: MTV's rapid-fire WebRiot game show teases surfers and TV viewers simultaneously.

velopment firm that created the online portion of WebRiot, says that according to Media Metrix's Webtraffic research, close to 18 million Americans—or roughly a third of the total U.S. Net population already use their TV sets and PCs simultaneously. But if you're not one of these multitasking surfers, there's a prize-free, Web-only version of Webkist waiting for you at MTV Online 24 hours a day. Hmmm...maybe it's finally time for that TV-tuner card.

GAMINGROUNDUP

GLOBAL PURSUITS

You shouldn't have to work too hard to play games on the Web. That's why THEGLOBE.COM: GAMES [www. theglobe.com/games] is home to a handful of classic solitaire and multiplayer games, such as chess, checkers, backgammon, and mah-iongg, Add to this assortment the latest computer-game news, reviews, demos, and cheat codes, and you may never make it to work on Monday morning. No registration or annoying plug-ins required, either. Free: Mac or PC.

TETRIS-ITIS REVISITED

Did you just recover from Tetris addiction? The guy who created the famed late-'80s Soviet export, Alexey Paiitnov, has devised another neurosis-inducing teaser. Try the demo of PANDORA'S BOX, at Microsoft Games [www. microsoft.com/games/ pandorasbox]. In this title, you're asked to travel the globe and solve myriad visual puzzles. Capture the

:// NEW TITLES, SITES, AND SERVICES ON THE GAMING FRONT

famous tricksters of world mythology and return them to Pandora's Box. Free to try, \$35 to buy; PC only.

QUAKER NOTES

Think you're a pretty hot D-shooter marksman? See how you fare at playing the free demo of id Software's QUAKE III ARENA [www. quake3arena.com1. If you're pleased with the results, cruise over to QUAKECON [www.

quakecon.com1, where you'll soon be able to register for next year's competition. This year's winner, "DieharD," walked away with an AMD Athlon K7 PC, a Quake III Arena leather jacket, and more. \$49.99; PC. Mac. Linux.

"TAKE THAT, SUCKER!"

Hurling insults at your opponents is half the fun of online multiplayer gaming. But the days of typed expletives may soon come to a close.

ROGER WILCO [www. resounding.com], a free stand-alone software program, lets gamers with a microphone- and sound-card-equipped PC chat with one another in real time while playing Quake II, Diablo, Age of Empires, and other combative titles. PC only.



ears just taking up space?



WORLD. H H H MUSIC THE ц 0 CHANNELS 120

GK: HOME & OFFICE

NETSAVERS



GET NOTICED Need

to put your new business in

the spotlight? PR Newswire and Business Wire charge hundreds of dollars to get the word out to reporters and editors, but the services of PR WEB [www.prweb.com] are free for the posting. Just register, then send your release to one of 5B moderated, spamfree categories, where it can reach iournalists, investors, and other dedicated newshounds.



RATE THE BROKERS

Your sister-in-law swears

by E*Trade, while your masseur says Datek is the way to go. But what's right for you? MONEY.COM's free pointand-click questionnaire [www. pathfinder.com/money/broker1 will recommend a broker from among



15 leading firms. This guick and painless set of 13 questions includes important considerations such as 24-hour/7-day customer service and minimum account-balance requirements. Now you can deliver some satisfied-customer testimonials of your own.



SCORE A LOAN Thanks

to SALLIE MAE Twww.

salliemae.com], the organization created by Congress to foster student financial aid, getting a college loan no longer means putting on a rep tie and paying a visit to Dad's bank. Its new service (see "Laureate" at the Sallie Mae site) accepts online loan applications and provides approvals within five minutes. Would-be borrowers fill out and verify the completed application (found at the Web sites of any of the 50 participating schools), indicate how much they want to borrow, then submit the application. Though government regulations require that you print and snail-mail a copy of your signed application to activate the loan itself, that's a small effort indeed for a formidable bounty.

:// on the road

Take a Shortcut

Two services circumvent the local showroom in delivering wheels to Web-savvy buyers



HAT'S THE USE OF ordering your car online if vou still have to deal with a snarky salesman at a dealership, which is the case at several car-buying sites? CARORDER.COM and CARSDIRECT.COM allow you to custom-order your own car from leading manufacturers—from Acura to Volvo-without leaving your PC. Both CarOrder and CarsDirect use similar formats: no-haggle pricing, credit-card deposits, and home delivery of your new vehicle.

Similarities between these virtual car lots end there. For its part, CarsDirect offers a broader selection than CarOrder, including the likes of Jaguar, Kia, and Land Rover. The site also guarantees delivery in as little as a week, whereas CarOrder customers must wait as long as three to six weeks. Why the wait? It's all about customiza-



tion: CarOrder lets you specify everything from seating fabrics to

sound systems for some models. What's more, CarOrder's prices beat CarsDirect's in Y-Life's test shopping. The 1999 Honda Prelude two-door coupe that costs \$22,244 at CarOrder was \$23,117 at CarsDirect.

Some automotive experts question whether these directfrom-the-Web sites can maintain their market edge. With Detroit automakers already rationing hot-selling sportutility vehicles such as the Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator to even their best dealers, it could take as long as eight months to get one of those through a Web-based firm. That's not good, says Thomas G. Libby, a director for J.D. Power & Associates in Detroit. "I can see a potential customer backlash building out of this." -D.F.

GOODTHINKING

JOIN THE CHIR

Think of MERCATA [www.mercata.com] as Price Club meets eBay. The site's "reverse auctions" (PowerBuys) are based on rising numbers of people buying a product simultaneously: The more people who want, for example, a Milwaukee Sawzall power saw, the less expensive it will be. The process is simple: You submit the top price you're willing to pay, with the understanding that you're locked into the purchase if the system meets your price or sets an even lower price. Does it work? Our spot check of Mercata price tags against conventional Web-store prices failed to find any deep discounts. However, with more shoppers joining up, the bargains are bound to improve. -L.G.

ning a bash? Give EVITE.COM the facts. and it'll then e-mail and/or fax your invitation to your potential



attendees. Each invite gives surfers a link to a page designed specifically for your event, which includes details of your fabulous soiree and maps to the event location. Evite also gathers the RSVPs, filtering out rejections from the acceptances. Your whole guest list may not be online just yet, but you'll save time contacting those who are. -L.G.



At its best, technology can be virtually indistinguishable from magic. So it is with our two newest Lifestyle® systems. The Personal™ music center replaces an entire rack of components. Yet you can hold it in your hand. Jewel Cube® speakers use neodymium iron boron magnets and spiral ports. They're about the size of a computer mouse. These, and other unique Bose® proprietary technologies are part of the reason we're the most respected name in sound. The bottom line? If you get something that doesn't have Bose technology, you're paying for something that doesn't have Bose sound.

TECHNOLOGY

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For your home. Your car. Your business. Your life.

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PRODUCTS SHOWN APPROXIMATELY 112 SIZE

ASKGASTON



DEAR GASTON

My cousin just got his first Net account, and won't stop sending me e-mail gags and goodluck totems. How do I get him to stop without hurting the buffoon's feelings?

-Enough Is Enough

(P.S. This particular buffoon is also a Mensa member, so your answer better be good, Frenchy.)

ENOUGH: Try Gaston's surefire recipe for eliminating noxious joke e-mails and assorted attachments: it's even better than the one I made up for tarte aux pruneaux: 1) Compose an e-mail to yourself, first making sure that your software supports blind copies. 2) Craft a short, somewhat scared-sounding note addressed to your e-friends, explaining that your ISP or office technology manager is tired of routing your copious e-mail attachments. 3) "BCC" this note only to the offending party, but make it sound as if it's being sent to 100 people, Voilà! You are now free of dancing babies and toilette jokes.

GOT A NET PROBLEM?

Write Gaston LeBeau, Web designer extraordinaire and recent Parisian émigré, at ASKGASTON@ ZD.COM

Yippee!

WE LOVE IT

SURF'S UP IN RIYADH Women can finally surf the Web in Saudi Arabia's capital, thanks to a new ladies-only cybercafé, OK, so there's a filter blocking "sexually explicit" and political sites, but the child-care and fashion advice provided so far is progress.

COOL AID Mix the spirit of those '80s "Aid" concerts with today's Web tricks, and what do you get? Jewel, Robbie Williams (photo), and others, singing their hearts out from London, Geneva. and New Jersey for a **NETAID** [www. netaid.coml Webcast, Backed by the U.N. Development Programme and Cisco Systems, it benefits relief efforts in Kosovo, Africa, and elsewhere

ON THE ROAD

Migrant farm children seldom stav in one school for very long. ESTRELLA [estrella.org], an educational outreach group, gives these kids laptops to connect with free online classes at NovaNet. The program has a 100 percent retention rate thus far.

Yahooey!

WE HATE IT

FLESH WOUND Webcam voyeurism hit vet an even lower low with the recent broadcast of songstress Carnie Wilson's gastrointestinal bypass at A DOCTOR IN YOUR HOUSE [WWW. doctorinvourhouse.coml. She's one brave woman, and it's a free country. But some gristle is better left unseen.

E-PINK SLIPS When one newly bankrupt Oklahoma financialservices firm went belly up, it fired

its 1.450 staffers by way of e-mail. Insensitive and tasteless? You bet.

TIN LIZZIE Something rings hollow with us when Republican presidential hopeful Elizabeth Dole solicits "\$500, \$100, or even a \$50 credit card contribution today" from Republican surfers via an e-mail solicitation. At least opponent Bill Bradley is using an "optin" Web site for his fundraising efforts.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD (1,714) JAMES EARL RAY

WHAT THE SEARCH ENGINE

FOUND

RAY ROMANO

YOUR VIRTUAL FRONT LAWN

The auction scene is, in effect, one big garage sale—a quieter version of what you may find a few driveways down. Y-Life assesses the differences and similarities.

Total strangers attempt to sell you their attic junk, using GIFs and JPEGs as evidence of its quality.

You wait days to see if you "won."

Yes, you really can shop in your underwear.

Hysterical bidding for the sake of bidding drives the closing price of a \$25 Alf denim jacket to four times its value

> You can turn over your winnings in a few months for a profit.

IN THE 'HOOD

Neighbors you've known for years try to sell you dusty pieces of their attic and basement junk.

You wait days to get change for a dollar.

You're offered your neighbor's underwear. ("Never worn-really!")

Sentimental slobs believe that their Alf denim jacket is worth \$100, but you'll eventually talk them down.

With any luck, you can unload your eBay purchases on unsuspecting neighbors.

SPECIALIZED

Searches conducted at AltaVista.com

PHYSICS LIMERICKS [www.aps.org/ apsnews/limericks. htmll

INTERNET MUSEUM OF FLEXI/CARDBOARD/ **ODDITY RECORDS** [www.wfmu.org/ MACrec]



4 mg "tar," 0.4 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

© Philip Morris Inc. 1999

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.

Think light.



Lighten up with Merit.



THESITES

WEB TOPPERS

The most-popular sites among Web surfers

SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS
	(IN MILLIONS)

	,	,
-1	YAHOO!	32.3
2	AOL.COM	30.2
3	MSN	26.9
4	GEOCITIES	22.6
5	NETSCAPE	19.3
6	GO NETWORK	19.2
7	MICROSOFT	16.6
8	LYCOS	15.1
9	EXCITE	14.6
10	ANGELFIRE	13.4
-11	AMAZON	11.5
12	TRIP00	11.4

WHERE'S THE BUZZ?

The most-visited news/ info/entertainment sites

UNIQUE VISITORS

	ABOU1.COM	7.9
2	MSNBC.COM	7,1
3	ZONET	6.9
4	OISNEY ONLINE	5.B
5	TIME.COM	5.7
6	WEATHER.COM	5.2
7	CNN.COM	5.1
8	IVILLAGE	5.0
0	OIGITAL CITY	4.0

11 WARNER BROS. ONLINE 4,3

45

IO SONY ONLINE

12 SPORTSLINE USA

Media Metrix [www.mediametrix. com] measures the site preferences of 50,000 Net surfers. "Unique visitors" represents the number of unique users who visited the site listed once during July. Apparent ties are the result of rounding.

NETPOLL

SMOKY SITUATIONS

Should smoking in bars be illegal?

NO	57.5%
YES	38.2%
UNOECIOEO	4.2%

Rankings reflect responses of 11,195 voters at Snap.com as of 9/8/99

CHATS

The month's best-attended get-togethers at Yahoo! Chat. CHAT VAHOO COM

- 1 ALANIS MDRISSETTE AND TDRI AMDS [8/17]
- 2 DR. ROB DANOFE health expert[8/19]
- 3 DANIEL MYRICK AND EOUARDO SÁNCHEZ. The Blair Witch Project directors [8/11]
- 4 LFD, boy band [8/30]
- 5 DEVTER HOLLAND The Offspring [8/10]
- 6 GOO GOO DOLLS [8/16]
- 7 DR. ROB DANDEF. health expert [8/5]
- 8 KRISTIAN ALFONSO. Days of Our Lives [8/18]
- **PUFF DADDY.** Part 2 [8/24]



IO SHANNON FLIZABETH American Pie [8/2]

Rankings reflect August chat attendance.

DOWNLOADS

The most-downloaded software titles at ZONet. WWW.HOTFILES.COM

- 1 ICQ (32-BIT),
- Net messaging software 2 NDRTON UTILITIES 2000, system-repair software
- 3 SONIQUE, free MP3compatible audio player
- 4 GO!ZILLA, Internet download tool
- 5 WEBFERRET. Web-search utility

List represents the week ending 8/30/00.

MUSIC

The top-selfing albums on the Net, as tallied by Billboard. WWW.BILLBOARD.COM

- 1 SANTANA, Supernatural
- 2 CHRISTINA AGUILERA, Christina Aquilera
- 3 BACKSTREET BOYS. Millennium

4 SARAH MCI ACHI AN Mirrorball

5 THE MOODY BLUES. Strange Times



6 LIMPRIZKIT Sianificant Other

- 7 RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, Californication
- 8 SMASH MOUTH. Astro Lounge
- 9 MARY J. BLIGE, Mary
- 10 ERIC CLAPTON, Blues

List represents the week ending 9/6/99.

BOOKS

The best-selling books in selected U.S. cities, according to Amazon.com Purchasing Circles.

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN ONLY) TURN OF THE CENTURY. Kurt Andersen

WASHINGTON, D.C. COLLISION AND COLLUSION: THE STRANGE CASE OF WESTERN AID TO FASTERN EUROPE 1989-1998. Janine R. Wedel

CHICAGO

ONE MORE TIME: THE BEST OF MIKE ROYKO. Mike Royko, et al.

SEATTLE.

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER DE SECRETS J.K. Rowling

SAN FRANCISCO THE SILICON BOYS AND THEIR VALLEY OF DREAMS, David A. Kaplan

List represents the week ending 9/1/99.

TICKET SALES

The top-selling events at Ticketmaster Online. TICKETMASTER.COM

- I FLTON JOHN
- 2 PHISH
- 3 JDHN MELLENCAMP
- 4 TOM WAITS
- 5 MIXFEST '99
- 6 FAMILY VALUES TOUR
- 7 OALLAS COWBOYS
- 8 KINGS DECDMEDY 9 98 DEGREES
- IO ZZ TOP

List represents the week ending 8/29/99 and multiple dates for each tour or event.

ART AUCTION ITEMS

The paintings, prints, and photographs generating the highest hids at Artnet com-

ARTNET COM

- 1 PASSAGE AVEC BARRIERE Alfred H. Maurer, \$12,630
- 2 THE MARX BROTHERS, Andy Warhol, \$7,875
- 3 MICK JAGGER. Andv Warhol, \$6,300
- 4 WINTER SUNRISE, THE SIERRA NEVADA
- Ansel Adams, \$5,010
- 5 ANGERS, 193D Man Ray, \$5,250
- CORPORATE OFFICE. Lynne Cohen, \$5,210
- 7 SIGMUND FREUD (TEN PRITRAITS OF JEWS) Andy Warhol, \$5,030
- 8 UNTITLED Francesco Clemente, \$5,015
- 9 MONDRIAN'S PIPE AND CLASSES PARIS

André Kertész, \$4,725



10 CAMPBELL'S SOUP I-GREEN PEA, Andy Warhol, \$4,225

List represents the week ending 8/20/99.

SHOPPING

The busiest Web merchants. NEXTCARO COM

- 1 AMERICA ONLINE*
- 2 AMAZON.COM
- 3 RUYCOM
- 4 EARTHLINK NETWORK*
- 5 CDNOW/MUSIC BOULEVARO 6 ONSALE
- **BN.COM: BARNES & NOBLE**
- 8 EGGHEAD.CDM
- 9 URID
- 10 MSN ONLINE*

*subscriber fees Rankings reflect August transactions made by 100,000 surfers.



MOVIES

The highest-priced titles per share on the Hollywood Stock Exchange.

HSY COM

- 1 THE GREEN MILE, \$87.96
- 2 THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH. \$87,38
- 3 TOYSTORY 2 \$84.72
- 4 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 2, \$70.00
- 5 STAR WARS: EPISDDE 2. \$77.22
- 6 END OF DAYS, \$77.06
- 7 SLEEPY HOLLOW, \$75.58
- 8 MAN ON THE MOON \$70.77
- 9 THREE KINGS. \$60.30
- 10 SCREAM 3, \$68.55

Rankings reflect prices taken on 8/27/99

THE WEB'S CELEBS

The most-searched-for celebrities currently on the nation's radar

- LYCOS COM I BRITNEY SPEARS, vocalist
- 2 PAMELA ANDERSON,
- V.I.P. 3 JENNIFER LOPEZ.
- actress/pop star
- 4 SABLE, wrestling pin-up 5 RICKY MARTIN, Latin
- pop star 6 SHANIA TWAIN, country vocalist
- 7 HEATHER GRAHAM, Bowfinger
- 8 JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT Time of Your Life
- 9 SHANNON ELIZABETH. American Pie
- 10 ALYSSA MILAND. Charmed

Rankings reflect searches conducted during the week ending 8/22/99.

Move over, speed of light.



The Power Mac G4 is here.

Computers get marginally faster every year.

Megahertz, a popular (but simplistic) measure
of performance, usually increases around 35%
annually. But once or twice in a decade, we
experience a breakthrough that leaps far beyond
these incremental steps. Today we present such
a breakthrough: the new Power Mac G4.

This is not just the fastest Mac* in history.

It's the fastest personal computer in history.

Rather than being just 35% faster, the new Power Mac G4 is up to a stunning 100% to 200% faster than the fastest Pentium III-based PCs:

With performance increasing at its usual pace, the new Power Mac G4 wouldn't have arrived until 2003. Fortunately, breakthroughs do happen.

New face, new brain, new era.

We love building the fastest, best-designed computers in the world. We realize they're

not for everyone. But for creative professionals, scientists, educators, artists, musicians and others who demand



The Power Mac G4 has a revolutionary "open-door policy" that gives you easy access to every part inside.

the highest possible performance, they're often nothing less than essential.

With its Pentium-crushing speed and convention-crushing design, the Power Mac G4 picks up where the best-selling G3 left off. Its enclosure has evolved to a highly polished silver and graphite, yet it still offers easy access to every internal component through its unique swing-open side door.

Beneath its new face, however, is where the Power Mac G4 really shines. At its core is a brand-new brain—the G4 processor—that

redefines high performance for the entire industry. (That's a story in itself, as you'll see in the following pages.)

And we've designed the rest of the new Power Mac G4 to keep up with the processor. Our two high-end models feature a 100MHz system bus with three times the memory bandwidth of the G3. As well as superfast Ultra ATA/66 hard drives and accelerated AGP 2X graphics.



There's a whole family of flat-panel and CRT displays, specifically designed to showcase the power of the Power Mac G4.

So, if you're one of those professionals who routinely push their computer to the limit, we invite you to witness the beginning of a new era of Power Mac power.

Hold on tight.





What you really need is a supercomputer.

Supercomputers have helped achieve breakthroughs in almost every field of science. But almost no one outside the scientific community could possibly need one. Or so it was thought.

That was before Photoshop filters started resembling the most sophisticated image processing done by NASA. And before Internet security started demanding CIA-strength cryptography. And before compressing QuickTime* or MP3 files started expanding your workday.

These tasks, and many more like them, have two things in common: They choke traditional processors.

And they can be dramatically sped up by exactly the kind of computational horsepower that supercomputers were created to provide.

But who has the money, or even the space, to have their very own supercomputer?

These benchmark advantages translate directly into real-world advantages.

For example, typical Photoshop tasks run twice as fast on the Power Mac G4 as they do on the fastest Pentium III-based PCs, with specific Photoshop filters running up to four times faster.* Compressing QuickTime files is also twice as fast.

In fact, "twice as fast" is a refrain you're going to be hearing often, as more and more software developers tap the power of the G4 with its Velocity Engine to accelerate

the performance of their applications—just as Adobe has already done with Photoshop.

Pentium



G4's Velocity Engine can process information in 128-bit chunks, compared with the 32- or 64-bit chunks in traditional processors.

Because gigaflops really do matter when your work revolves around

graphics, animation, 3D games, video effects, 3D rendering and a host of other computation-hungry software.

Chances are, you've never even heard of a gigaflop before. But very soon you won't be able to live without at least one on your desk.

Intel Signal Processing Library Performance Specification

Test	Pentium III Clock Cycles	G4 Clock Cycles	G4 Performance	G4 Performance (Adjusted for MHz)
1024 dim. Square (bsqr1)	1.30	0.50	2.60 times faster	2.17 times faster
1024 dim. Multiply (bMpy2)	1.33	0.75	1.77 times faster	1.48 times faster
1024 dim. Dot Product (DotProd)	2.21	0.50	4.42 times faster	3.68 times faster
256 Pt. Complex FFT (FFT)	6.94	4.00	1.74 times faster	1.45 times faster
32 tap x 1024 dim. FIR Filter (bFir)	0.95	0.33	2.88 times faster	2.40 times faster
32 tap x 1024 dim. Convolution (Conv)	84.99	11.00	7.73 times faster	6.44 times faster
		Average	3.52 times faster	2.94 times faster

The 500MHz G4 processor, with its Velocity Engine, is an average of 2.94 times as fast as the fastest Pentium III (600MHz).

The first supercomputer on a chip.

What makes a supercomputer "super" is its ability to execute at least one billion floating-point operations per second. It's a staggering measure of speed known as

a "gigaflop."

The new PowerPC G4, architected by Apple,
Motorola and IBM, is the first microprocessor that can deliver a sustained

performance of over one gigaflop. In fact, it has a theoretical peak performance of four gigaflops.

The secret of the G4's revolutionary

performance is its aptly named Velocity

Engine." It's the heart of a supercomputer

miniaturized onto a sliver of silicon. The

Velocity Engine can process data in 128-bit

chunks, instead of the smaller 32-bit or 64-bit chunks used in traditional processors. In addition, it can perform four (in some cases eight) 32-bit floating-point calculations in

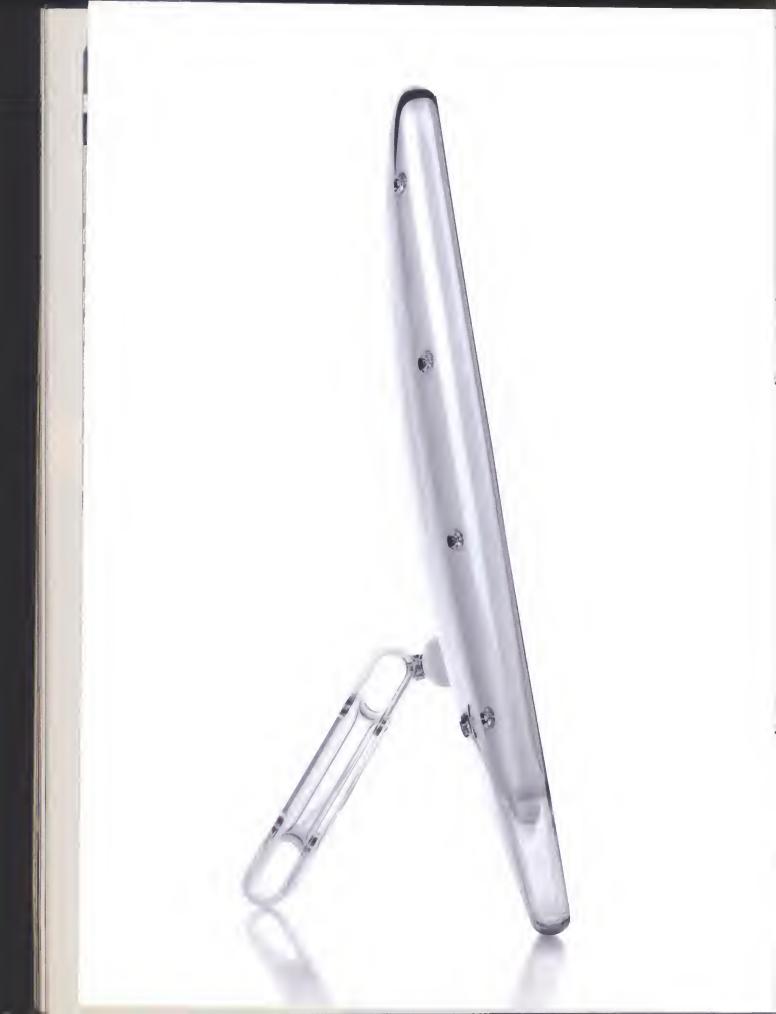
a single cycle—two to four times faster than traditional processors.

So how does the G4 with its Velocity Engine stack up against Intel's

brand-new Pentium III processor?

To find out, we went right to the source:
We used a set of Intel's own performance
tests published on their website.

Using six of Intel's tests, the 500MHz
G4 was, on average, almost three times as
fast as the 600MHz Pentium III (2.94 times,
to be exact).



A revolutionary computer deserves a revolutionary display.

Introducing the ultimate companion to the Power Mac G4: the Apple Cinema Display." With its 22-inch screen (measured diagonally), it's the largest LCD display ever brought to market.

Its viewable area is as big as a 24-inch flat CRT display. But it's twice as bright and sharp, with triple the contrast ratio and zero flicker. And its millions of colors remain true from almost any viewing angle.

Like a movie theater, the Apple Cinema Display has a letterbox format (1600x1024 pixels), with room enough to display an entire 11x17 image. And unlike most other displays, it receives its data digitally from the computer, preserving the highest-quality image.

The Apple Cinema Display is state-of-the-art technology, and supplies will be limited. And at \$3999° it's not for every pocketbook. But if you're fortunate enough to use one, your office view will never be the same again.





If you don't see your perfect G4 here, feel free to build your own.



Price*	\$1599	\$1999	\$2799	\$3499 500MHz G4	
Processor	400MHz G4	450MHz G4	450MHz G4		
L2 Backside Cache	1MB 200MHz	1MB 225MHz	1MB 225MHz	1MB 250MHz	
Memory (SDRAM)	64MB 1.0GB max.	64MB 128MB 1.0GB max. 1.5GB max.		128MB 1.5GB max.	
Max, Memory Bandwidth	400MB/sec	400MB/sec	800MB/sec	800MB/sec	
Graphics	RAGE 128/PCI 16MB graphics memory	RAGE 128/PCI 16MB graphics memory	RAGE 128/AGP 2X 16MB graphics memory	RAGE 128/AGP 2X 16MB graphics memory	
Hard Drive 3 internal bays, 1 used	10GB Ultra ATA/33	13GB Ultra ATA/33	20GB Ultra ATA/66	27GB Ultra ATA/66	
Removable Storage	CD-ROM	DVD-ROM DVD-Video playback 100MB Zip Drive	DVD-ROM DVD-Video playback 100MB Zip Drive	DVD-RAM DVD-Video playback 100MB Zip Drive	
Ethernet 10/100BASE-T	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
FireWire Ports (400Mbps)	2	2	3 (1 internal)	3 (1 internal)	
USB Ports	2 (12Mbps total)	2 (12Mbps total)	2 (24Mbps total)	2 (24Mbps total)	
AirPort™ Wireless Networking 11Mbps IEEE 802.11	n/a	n/a	Optional	Optional	
56K V.90 Modem	Built in	Built in	Optional	Optional	
Apple Cinema Display	n/a	n/a	Optional	Optional	

Find the new Power Mac G4 at your local authorized Apple reseller. Or build your own perfect system—from over 15,000 configurations—by visiting the Apple Store" at www.apple.com.



Think different."

Surfing the Net as God intended—*fast*

Our critic finds Internet heaven at last with a high-speed digital subscriber line

AM NOT THE FIRST KID ON MY BLOCK TO GET A HIGH-SPEED CONNECTION to the Internet. Web sites with big downloadable files are now offering T1 as an option. Yet I am happy as I sit at my screen, surfing like a master of the universe. • My first connection to CompuServe, way back when, was at 300 baud, via the Tandy 100. I crept slowly past 1200 baud, 2400 baud, 9600 baud, 19.2K, 56K, and finally, a few years ago, to ISDN. Each new speed seemed dazzling at first. But I caught up

with the curve in a week or two, and was back to the basic online position (elbow on desk, hand poised above mouse in case it would *ever* be needed).

ISDN was nice. I was spending more time at Web pages than on my way to them. But whenever I'd visit computer labs and see what a fast connection really was like, I'd be filled with a vague gnawing of resentment. It was time for another upgrade.

I considered a cable

modem. Two factors discouraged me. One was the indifference my local cable company displayed toward me in the years before I pulled the plug on cable TV and switched to satellite. My cable TV picture was often rotten, and the company did not carry many of the channels I wanted. The

folks there never

answered the phone, and they always tried to sell me a package featuring 500 soccer games a day. Why would their Net access be any better than the mess they'd made of TV?

There was another factor. While cable indeed offered fast access to the Net, I was told that the pipeline going down my alley was of finite capacity. If all of my neighbors were online at the same time happily downloading pirated versions of *Phantom Menace*, my access could slow to

I learned, the speed I paid for was the speed I always got, more or less.

a crawl. With DSL.

And so my friendly local ISPguy, Cal Thixton, came around to mastermind the switch to DSL. It involved visits from the telephone company and plunges into obscure corners of my basement. Cal

then waved his wand over our household's three Macs to awaken them to the new world of high-speed access. And then—yes! I was online the way God intended.

My requirements when I request a URL are modest: I want to hit Enter and be looking at the new page *instantly*. When there is a pause, it should be because I am reading, not because I am waiting.

A lot of the time, DSL gives me that. My Yahoo! home page is configured with menus of 90 different headlines, sports scores, weather reports, my horoscope (even though I'm not a believer), a couple of Yahoo! clubs, current and upcoming movies, the box-office reports, stock prices, my favorite links, and the health tip of the day. It now all loads as I count *one* one thousand, *two* one thousand...

With DSL, online audio and video are improved immensely. I am able to watch film clips that approach the illusion of actual moving pictures. Yes, they're small, and

My requirements when I request a URL are modest: I want to hit Enter and be looking at the new page instantly

not full-motion. (I can enlarge them to fill my entire screen, but then they look Cubist.) What I get would never be confused with real television, but it's a lot better than the postage stamps I used to peer at while they renewed every three seconds. Audio quality is excellent; I listen to the BBC World Service as I surf.

Downloading software is a breeze (QuickTime 4 took less than three minutes). Message boards and forums now refresh at a conversational rate. Deja.com doesn't make me wait so long between screens that I forget the topic. I can download an e-mail in-box in a few seconds. Java doesn't slow things down so much.

And yet there's still something missing. The day will come when Tr speeds or faster are universal. When I can instant-message friends and see them full-screen, full-motion, with good audio. When movies on demand look good and sound great. When I can download QuickTime 8 in 15 seconds. Of course, by then, 15 seconds might seem like an eternity.

SCARDO STAMPATORI

Frankenstein, the Unabomber, and me

Hidden in classic monster tales is a **modern** story about technology. Are we afraid to look?

of monsters. From genetic engineering to e-trading, technology is the biggest story in the world. It is reshaping our lives, our bodies, our communities—the way we shop, talk, and play. Sometimes, in fact, technology moves so quickly that it drives us nuts. You can see the evidence of techno-hysteria on the front page of any newspaper or on any TV newscast. Ancient notions of technology are resurfacing—notions that cast it

as an out-of-control force that fosters violence, pornography, theft, loss of privacy, erosion of copyright, moral degeneration, educational and cultural decline, isolation, hate-mongering, and even the collapse of civilization itself.

America has the strangest love-hate relationship with technology. Although we create more of it than any nation on Earth, we seem unnerved by almost

everythingitengenders.

Technological
change often is
accompanied by
waves of moral
outrage, as if we
need to reassert
the old values in
order to face the
onrushing new
ones. The Net has
become the latest focal point
for this peren-

And so the moral drama is playing out again. Witness the

nial unease.

development of the v-chip, the various incarnations of the Communications Decency Act, blocking and filtering systems, and tightened ratings and admissions policies at movie theaters and video chains.

Many of these shields are wielded in the name of protecting children, but the efforts at restriction are much broader. Lawyers fear losing business when people can download free legal information; scientific researchers quarrel about giving

the public access to once-private work. Dictators

scramble to keep control.

Sadly, all these fears have failed to provoke much intelligent discussion. When it comestoresponding to technology, we seem to have only two modes: ridiculous hype or knee-jerk hysteria. Here's where the

monsters come in. It seems that they are the only ones who want to talk about technology: the creature in Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's *Frankenstein*, for instance, or Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber, in his rambling manifesto.

As it happens, those seeking perspective on technology's grip on the world's imagination could hardly do better than to dig out Shelley's decidedly low-tech 1818 masterpiece. It is eerily relevant on the eve of the new millennium.

The most striking thing about her dense novel is how precisely it foreshadows the thoughtlessness of our own approach to technology. We make miracles all the time—fertility drugs that can produce seven or eight fetuses in one womb, for example—but we rarely think through the

ramifications. Were Shelley to pop up in modernday America, she would be amazed that the issue the country deems most worthy of debate and action is Net access to sexual imagery.

When it comes to responding to technology, we seem to have only two modes: ridiculous hype or knee-jerk hysteria

In *Frankenstein*, the creature is the sole character who wants to consider technology and the issues it invariably raises: access, responsibility, morality, hubris.

"I am thy creature," implores the monster at one point, "and I will be even mild and docile to my natural lord and king if thou wilt also perform thy part, the which thou owest me."

The doctor does not perform his part, which is to take responsibility for what he has made, to think about his creation and its future. This was also the kind of discussion that the murderous Unabomber, between tortured rants, was hoping to provoke with the long essay he mailed to *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

Neither creature got his way. Society didn't consider technology then, and we don't consider its implications now.

But as someone who loves writing about technology, I embrace my mission in this new column: to spur thinking about our rising technological tide. Please pass feedback along: jonkatz@slashdot.org.

The Human Race is a relay.



Since the discovery of fire, each generation has passed the best of what it learned to the next. Now there's a great new way to do that with an incredible software development called MY LIFE. Through a wealth of inspiring, thought-provoking questions, MY LIFE lets you combine words, pictures, audio and video to turn loving memories into living memories — so future generations can actually travel your unique journey with you step by step. You can even publish your story as a book, a CD, or your own free website. Never before could mankind pass the torch with the flame burning so bright, instead of merely flickering.

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חונדו כבתבדו





SEPARATING THE NEWS FROM THE NOISE

Hold the iPhone and keep holding

THE PROMISE: The Net, phone, and computer together in one package. THE REALITY: One strange and disappointing package.

between a car and a boat that was not so great on either land or water. Likewise, the iPhone merges a telephone and a PC. The result is a Net device that is not so great either online or off.

InfoGear's \$399 iPhone is the size of a large laptop. It combines such phone features as caller-ID and a handset (not cord-

The iPhone merges a telephone and a PC. The result is a Net device that is not so great either online or off

less) with such Net must-haves as a 56Kbps modem, e-mail, and Web surfing capability.

This may be fine for Net newbies who want a quick-and-dirty Web connection but are most com-

fortable with a phone. Experienced PC users, though, will find it exasperating. Especially when they discover that the only way to move data from the iPhone to a regular computer is to retype every contact, bookmark, and appointment.

HYPE REALITY SCORE: 2 REA

Are you for sale?

THE PROMISE: Name your price.
Gloat as employers fight over you.
THE REALITY: Name your price. Fret as employers eye you like a horse at auction.
It's official: You can sell anything on

the Internet. Heck, you can even sell yourself, using the latest career-management tool. Welcome to the age of the human auction.

The nervy idea first popped up on eBay last spring, when a team of 16 tech workers offered itself for a cool \$3.14 million. The stunt drew no offers. However, it did draw lots of attention—including that of the popular job-search site MONSTER.COM.

The firm formalized the gimmick with its Monster Talent Market. There, bold freelancers post their demands, slap a price tag on their skills, and then hope they aren't left on the auction block. Is this slave-auction idea a throwback to the Dark Ages? Or is it the beginning of a frictionless free-agent market that puts the worker in control?

Ironically, those who stand to gain the most are employees looking for raises. They've just been handed the richest wage reality check: the headhunter.

HYPE REALITY SCORE: 8 REAL

The prez says: everybody online

THE PROMISE: Internet access for every American.

THE REALITY: Yeah, right.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am counting my blessings. I give thanks for my family, my home, and, of course, my

Internet connection.

Don't smirk judgmentally at that last item until you consider where you would be without the Web. As for me, I would be out of a job—or, at least, out of a great job—in an industry with a great future.

The reality is that access to the Net equals access to economic opportunity. Pushing for access to the Net also equals political opportunity. Witness the Universal Service program touted by President Bill Clinton and presidential candidate Al Gore, which aims to place at least one Net-connected computer in every public school and library.

I love the idea of opening the Internet information feast to everybody. But this Universal Service program is half-baked. Sure, the program will pay for machines and connections. But it won't pay to train people in how to get the computers up and running—much less in how to use them.

In the end, taxpayers are apt to waste millions on sophisticated machines that will soon be left to rot like leftover turkey in the back of the fridge.

This Thanksgiving, I am grateful for my health. The roof over my head. And Internet access that does not depend on a bureaucrat.

HYPE REALITY SCORE: 2

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A SAMPLING OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB. WORD FOR WORD EDITED BY DALTON ROSS

Is the **Dapper Don** done online? Can the **naked truth** be found hiding out somewhere in the Buckeye State? And does Coolio worry that his wife may have suffered some form of permanent **hearing loss**?

Family Values

Issue No. 25 of naturist online publication **OHIO NUDE DIGEST** contains the following letter to the editors, titled "Converting the Family."

EAR BOB OR ANN, HOW WAS YOUR weekend? I hope you got to be nude a lot. I had a funny thing happen this weekend that I wanted to share. Keep in mind, as I have written before, my wife doesn't like being nude around others and will not come to any of our events.

My wife started her job Sunday night. She wanted to take a nap at about 5:30 and then get up and eat dinner at 7:30. We had spent about 4 hours at the pool. We came home around 5:00. I went to our room to change. I took off my Speedo and put the shorts I was wearing back on. With Brenda sleeping and the boys in the living room, I realized that the shorts were too wet to wear. So, I took them off. They didn't notice until about 6:00. At 7:15 I went to the kitchen to fix dinner. Still naked I went down at 7:30 to wake Brenda. She didn't notice until she came back upstairs to the kitchen. I told her that her sunburn probably needed to be uncovered. She bought it. She then removed her clothes. During dinner my youngest left the room and came back naked. The ten year old finally broke down and joined us. We all stayed that way until bed time. It was a great feeling to have my family finally join in on how I loved to be. Maybe this will start us out on being a nudist family. [ohnuderec. org/OND/ONDPast/ondO25.html]

Four-Star Fascination

INFILTRATION bills itself as "the zine about going places you're not supposed to go." One

section of the site looks at "Taking the Plunge" into hotel exploration.

mixture of stealth and social engineering. Unless one sticks strictly to the unused areas of a hotel, there will be many times when one must interact with other people, including employees.

Hotel employees are a lot like bears: though they'll certainly attack you if you act scared or run from them, under normal circumstances they would really prefer to

avoid a confrontation altogether. They know all too well that any sort of conflict with a hotel guest could result in serious punishment, so they're as scared of you as you are of them.

"Can I help you" is the all-purpose hotelemployee phrase, the bland mantra which hotel employees have been trained to repeat in virtually any situation. Subtle differences in intonation can distort this once-friendly phrase to mean anything from "what the hell are you doing here" to "please die." The wisest angle, in my hum-

I Thee Web

On July 15, Brian Winn of Bothell, Washington, proposed to his girlfriend, Lisa Cook, via his Web site, MARRY ME. Part of his online proposal included a poem.

Lisa, "I Love You"...and this is my poem about my life before you.

The other night I had a wondrous dream,

My commitment to you is forever...



Convright Brian Loves Lisa 1999 - Eternity.

One set of footprints there was seen,
The footprints of my precious Lord,
But mine were not along the shore.
But then some stranger prints appeared,
and I asked the Lord, "What have we here?"
Those prints are large and round and neat,
"But Lord, they are too big to be feet."

"My child," He said in somber tones,
"For miles I carried you all alone.
I challenged you to have faith in love
You refused, but wore a glove."

"You disobeyed, you would not grow, The love of your life, you would not know, So I got tired, I got fed up, And although your life I did not cut, There I dropped you on your butt."

At that moment I then arose, I opened my eyes, as they'd been closed. "Because in life, there comes a time, When one must love, and bells should chime, When one must stand and take her hand, and Say, I do Lisa...

...Or leave butt prints in the sand."

-Brian
(A parody of Footprints in the Sand)

So, will you marry me?

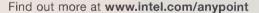
[tosayyes.com]

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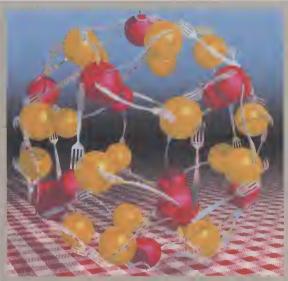


CUT & PASTE

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Stick a fork in it George W. Hart creates art relating to polyhedrons—geometric solids whose faces on all sides are polygons. [www.li.net/-george/applorng html].

ble opinion, is to always pretend "can I help you" actually means "can I help you," and respond "no, thank you." Don't let hotel employees get away with weakly implying suspicion—force them to directly accuse you, and thereby risk their jobs, if they really want a confrontation.

Sometimes hotel recreation areas are supervised by attendants. Like other employees, and also like bears, pool attendants would prefer just to be left alone. Once inside a recreation area, if any attendants seem to be gazing your way, head straight up to them and ask where you should get changed, where you can find the towels, or some similarly direct question. This conveys confidence, and also obviates the need for the attendant to ask if they can help you or to inquire whether or not you are a guest of the hotel.

As well as dealing with the employees themselves, hotel explorers must know how to handle security cameras. First of all, assume you're being watched at all times unless you know for a fact that you are not. It's ACTION as soon as you stroll into the hotel lobby; you should be on performance at all times. If you stay in character during your entire exploration and even engage in mock conversations with your partners, you'll gradually develop mannerisms and minor details that will make your story much more believable should you ever need to tell it. Acting is a more important skill than lying; if you can act out the little things correctly you won't be placed in a situation where you need to lie. And if you ever are in a situation where you need to lie, remember to only lie about why you did something, not about what you did, for chances are security has all your naughty deeds on film.

While you should always keep the cameras in mind, it's better if you don't look at them directly. Security will be more inclined to trust you if they think you're behaving

yourself because that's just the kind of person you are. Also, when you enter a hotel, don't immediately hop on the elevator and head directly to the pool. If anyone happens to be monitoring the lobby and the pool area, they're bound to wonder why you didn't stop at your room first. Always take an indirect route. [infiltration.org/plunge.htm]

Animal Cruelty

The home page of Stop the Oppression of Piñatas, or STOOP, contains the following mission statement, titled "The Cause of STOOP."

TOOP'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO STOP ALL OF THE buying, selling, raising, and killing of piñatas being done in the world today. We will use any means necessary. Already we have sent a nasty letter containing more than one vulgarity to a large piñata killing company. We have totally boycotted all baseball bat companies, the main provider of weapons for the killing of innocent piñatas. Now, we spend our days playing cricket, instead of that deplorable sport of baseball. We have also boycotted tequila and Mexican jumping beans, two large exports from Mexico, a known supporter of piñata atrocities. These steps will only take us so far. Soon, we may find it necessary to take more violent methods such as burning all Mexican party books, which demonstrate how to kill a piñata. We will use civil disobedience if that is what is needed. We seek to end the injustices and atrocities aimed at the race of piñata. We will fight for our cause, we will SAVE THE PIÑATAS!!!!! [angelfire.com/id/jlamro]

Size Does Matter

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association exists to "promote, support, nurture, and preserve NMLRA's and our nation's rich historical heritage in the sport of muzzleloading." The following excerpt from Emily Nesbitt's "The Importance of Rifle Length" comes from the group's zine, MUZZLE BLASTS ONLINE.

R. JOHN WOOLFOLK, A GOOD FRIEND AND PEN pal whom I've never met, mentioned a good idea in a letter about informing parents concerning the troubles young kids have with rifle length. He talked about how he has seen little kids in the pee-wee match having trouble reaching the triggers, and sometimes the kid gets a poor score because of this problem. Mr. Woolfolk thinks that kids could shoot much better if they only had a smaller, better fitting rifle to use. I realized that his idea is very true and a problem that parents might overlook. Here are a few helpful hints and ideas that might make shooting more comfortable for both youngsters and their parents.

Parents do feel proud when their kids learn how to shoot well. What makes them even more proud is when the kids enjoy shooting their own guns. Sometimes, a kid might be too anxious to shoot the rifle and won't tell their parents if it is

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Get the Picture.



too uncomfortable. A parent might rush the child into shooting too quickly and not be able to see the subtle problems.

To give kids the most help, start them out using a rifle with an appropriate length of pull. (Length of pull is the distance from the center of the buttplate to the trigger.) The rifle could either be a short .22 caliber rimfire, or a small muzzleloader, or even an air rifle (BB gun). All of these types of rifles are very good for training a beginner. Parents also need to be careful about observing all the rules of shooting safety.

It is best to use very small loads in a muzzleloader, so the kid won't jump from recoil and the muzzle blast. Have kids wear ear protection at all times. (Set a good example and wear ear protection yourself.) Eye protection is also essential. For starters, by all means have the kids shoot from a bench or from a prone position (e.g., over a log) so they don't have to support the weight of the rifle....

Barrel length really doesn't make a lot of difference to shooters in the pee-wee

class. They shoot with rests or cross-sticks and don't have to support the entire rifle. For kids in the junior class it is different story, and juniors should have rather short-barreled rifles for off-hand shooting. My comments are generalizations, certainly, but at shoots and rendezvous I've seen several kids shooting rifles that are too big for them.

The best thing to do is to get rifles that fit. Jack Garner, the boss at Tennessee Valley Manufacturing, gets custom orders for rifles with lengths of pull shorter than thirteen inches guite often, and I know of one Tennessee Rifle he's making with a 121/1" pull right now. Short rifles don't have to be custom built; several companies have little rifles for our youngest shooters. Getting a rifle that fits the shooter is one of the greatest gun buving investments vou can make. because the shooter will enjoy shooting more, and shoot better too. Getting a gun that fits is really the only way to go. [muzzleblasts.com/vol4no2/articles/ mbo42-3.html

Gotti Whacked Online

In this excerpt of a July I4 article in SALON, Jerry Capeci weighs in on the hard times suffered by incarcerated mobster John Gotti and his extended crime family.

HE GAMBINO CRIME FAMILY, under onetime cover boy and fashion plate John Gotti and his college-educated son, is in virtual free fall, plummeting like a limo full of capos going off the Brooklyn Bridge.

The swashbuckling Dapper Don, who thumbed his nose at the law after beating three indictments, has called jail his home since 1990 when he was nailed for five murders and assorted racketeering crimes, most of which he admitted while at one of his favorite meeting places—which happened to be bugged by the FBI. His anointed successor, son John A., better known as



Make the hours you spend in front of a computer as easy on your eyes as possible with the Eclipse Computer Light – the indirect light source that casts a pleasing pool of glare-free light over computer desktops. The Eclipse Computer Light is a simple precaution that can

Junior, is about to go to prison for up to seven years after pleading guilty to racketeering and lying on a mortgage application. And John (Jackie Nose) D'Amico, a longtime Gotti loyalist and Gambino capo, was sentenced last week to 20 months in prison, his first jail time in a life of crime....

Of the 21 Gambino capos (or captains) heading crews of soldiers and pursuing other gangster-type activities in 1991, only five have avoided prison or death: Thirteen have been convicted of state and/or federal crimes; one of them died in prison: and three others dropped dead before they could be prosecuted. Many key capos are still languishing in jail, including Thomas Gambino, the son of Carlo Gambino, the longtime boss for whom the family is named; their cousin, John Gambino: Carlo's former bodyguard/chauffeur James (Jimmy Brown) Failla, and Gotti's brother Gene. Some 35 made (inducted) members and countless more associates (cutthroats and gangsters who have not been formally inducted into the Mafia) are jailed, including three capos who succeeded some of those who were convicted and taken off the streets.

And to add insult to injury, the family is taking a beating in cyberspace. Melissa

(Ravenna) Angelini, an unabashed Gotti supporter and creator of the "John Gotti Tribute Page," has thrown in the towel after four years of singing Gotti's praises on the Internet. "Unfortunately, all good things

Net Loss

"The Top I2 Signs You've Invested in a Bad Internet Company" appears online at TOPFIVE.COM.

- I2. CEO stops by to use your computer because his electricity's been turned off again.
- II. Company made solely up of former AARP executives.
- IO. Merrill Lynch just downgraded the stock from "Sell" to "Tax Write-Off."
- 9. Your profits? 404-Not Found
- 8. Prospectus states: "YOU MIGHT ALREADY BE A STOCKHOLDER!"
- 7. Their big idea: eHaircuts
- 6. Their Lead Programmer is reasonably attractive & has 20/20 vision.

- 5. IPO consists of I2 shares and a free CD and is underwritten by MC Hammer.
- 4. At shareholder meeting you're asked to wear a mouse pad as a name tag.
- 3. In *Pirates of Silicon Valley*, company CEO was played by that "Ernest" guy.
- 2. Their price-to-earnings ratio is higher than Marion Barry in a DEA evidence room.
- I. Good: Team of young, enthusiastic go-getters.
- Bad: IPO's financial goal was \$57.45 to "repay Tommy's mom."

[topfive.com/arcs/arc_0899.htm]

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"Whatever your processor speed, when it comes to RAM, more is better." cnet.com

must come to an end," she wrote on July 6, saying she still supported Gotti but that the vagaries of her daily life now prevent her from updating the site.

The tribute page is still on the Web with its upbeat pictures and stories about Gotti, Junior, daughter Victoria, and lawyer Bruce Cutler. But her followers can no longer send her e-mail or expect any gala holiday issues with Gotti decked out as Santa Claus, a Mayflower pilgrim, or Yankee Doodle Dandy. T-shirt sales are down or there is a glut. The price of the official "Free John Gotti" T-shirt has been cut \$3—to \$16.95 plus shipping and handling. [salon.com/people/gang/1999/07/14/gangland4]

Wrestlemania

The purpose of the PARENTS TELEVISION COUNCIL (PTC) is described as "motivating the public

Oops

Sample entries from KISSTHISGUY.COM: THE ARCHIVE OF MISHEARD LYRICS.

Song: "Gangsta's Paradise"

Artist: Coolio

The real lyrics were: "As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I take a look at my life and realize there ain't much left."

But I misheard them as: "...I take a look at my wife and realize she's real deaf."

The embarrassing moment of revelation: I was singing this song to my friend on the bus and she started laughing at me. She told me that I was singing the wrong lyrics.

Age when I realized how wrong I had been: 10 Misheard by: Elizabeth Heyne

Song: "Space Oddity"

Artist: David Bowie

The real lyrics were: "Ground control to Major Tom."

But I misheard them as: "Clown control to Mao Tse-tung."

The embarrassing moment of revelation: I saw the published lyrics and music (privately, therefore not too embarrassingly).

Age when I realized how wrong I had been: 32 Misheard by: Stephen Segall

[www.kissthisguy.com]

to voice its support of family-friendly programming to network executives, advertisers, public policy leaders, and the creative community in Hollywood." The group issued the following "Action Alert!" via its Web site on August 27.

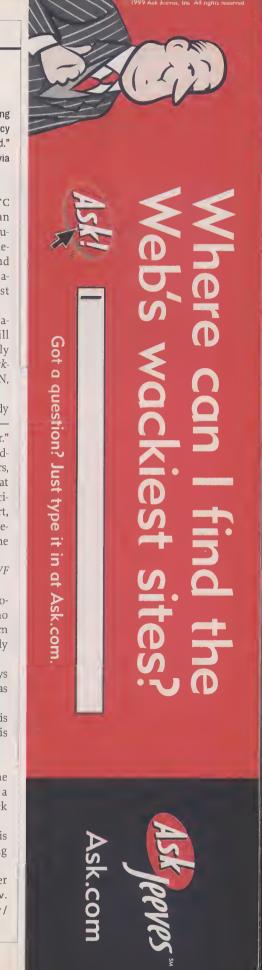
HE SOON TO BE RELEASED PTC Study "The Family Hour: Worse Than Ever and Headed for New Lows" documents the rapid decline in broadcast television standards over just the last year and a half. As the study argues, this fall will feature the raunchiest line-up in broadcast television history.

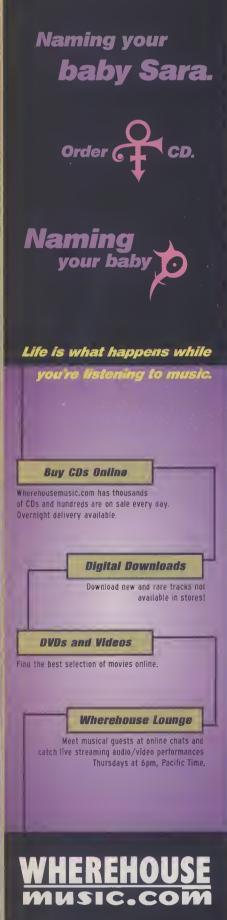
The worst programs of this abysmal season are on Thursday night. The PTC will be monitoring these shows, particularly Fox's new show *Action*, and *WWF Smackdown!*, the new wrestling show on UPN, and their sponsors.

The first episode of Smackdown!, already aired at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 26—right at the beginning of the "family hour." It featured the usual extreme violence, including the stars bashing one another with chairs, ladders, guitars, and other implements that come to hand. (Bear in mind an earlier incident, recounted in the July 7 PTC E-Alert, where a seven-year-old boy killed his three-year-old brother using a simple clothesline move he'd seen on a wrestling show.)

Other lowlights of the August 26 WWF Smackdown!

- Kids who saw the program were introduced to a character named "Mr. Ass," who enters the show to a song proclaiming "I'm the ass man." The word is used repeatedly throughout the program.
- A sign clearly visible to the camera says "Chyna [one of the female characters] has no vagina."
- Mr. Ass at one point starts to undo his shorts, presumably so Chyna can kiss his rear end, but she hits him in the crotch.
- There is repeated crotch-grabbing.
- A wrestler named The Rock says that he would "take that WWF belt from you, put a little Icy-hot on it, turn it sideways and stick it straight up your candy-ass!"
- A wrestler called Mankind says "All this talk about stroking and screwing is getting Mankind a little bit excited..."
- The crowd shouts "Suck It!" as a wrestler points to his crotch. [www.parentstv. org/publications/trashthursday/actionalert0827.html]





CUT & PASTE

The Straight Dope

In examining the media's preoccupation with presidential candidate George W. Bush's possible use of cocaine as a college student, **SLATE**'s Timothy Noah, in one of his "Chatterbox" columns, asked various political pundits if they had ever used the drug themselves.

- Howie Kurtz, reporter, Washington Post: "It would be hard for me to claim to have a drug-free college education, but I'm not going to go into the sordid details."

 Chatterbox concludes: Probable ves.
- Timothy Burger, reporter, New York Daily News: "No."

Chatterbox concludes: Probable no.

■ Tom DeFrank, bureau chief, *New York Daily News:* "No. I went to Texas A&M, don't forget. I went to Texas A&M when it was all male and all military."

Chatterbox concludes: Almost certain no. (Full disclosure: Chatterbox used to work with DeFrank at *Newsweek*.)

■ Ellen Joan Pollock, reporter, *The Wall Street Journal:* "You know what? I am not gonna answer that question...but I'm amused." (She said this very good-naturedly.)

Chatterbox concludes: Probable yes. (Full disclosure: Chatterbox used to work with Pollock at *The Wall Street Journal.*)

■ Susan Estrich, former campaign manager, Dukakis '88: "I think I'll pass on this one—I go back to the Doug Ginsburg days, and I passed then, on the theory that we shouldn't be asking these questions...and if we don't ask them, we don't have to answer them." (Ginsburg is the judge whose Supreme Court appointment cratered after he admitted to having used marijuana long ago.)

Chatterbox concludes: Probable yes. (Full disclosure: Chatterbox has never met Estrich.)

■ George Stephanopoulos, pundit, ABC News: "No."

Chatterbox concludes: Almost certain no. (This admission dents his glamorous image. Besides, he got asked the same thing by the FBI when he went to work at the White House, and if he were lying now he'd have to fear being ratted out by a disgruntled G-man.)

■ Karen Brown, news director, WMUR: "No, I've not."

Chatterbox concludes: Probable no.

■ Cokie Roberts, pundit, ABC News:





Droppin' science: Two microscopic images of interlocking single-celled organisms known as diatoms. [www.euronet.nl/users/janpar/virtual/diatoms.html]

[Didn't return Chatterbox's phone call.]
Chatterbox concludes: As the daughter of a
House leader and a nice Catholic
girl, almost certainly not.

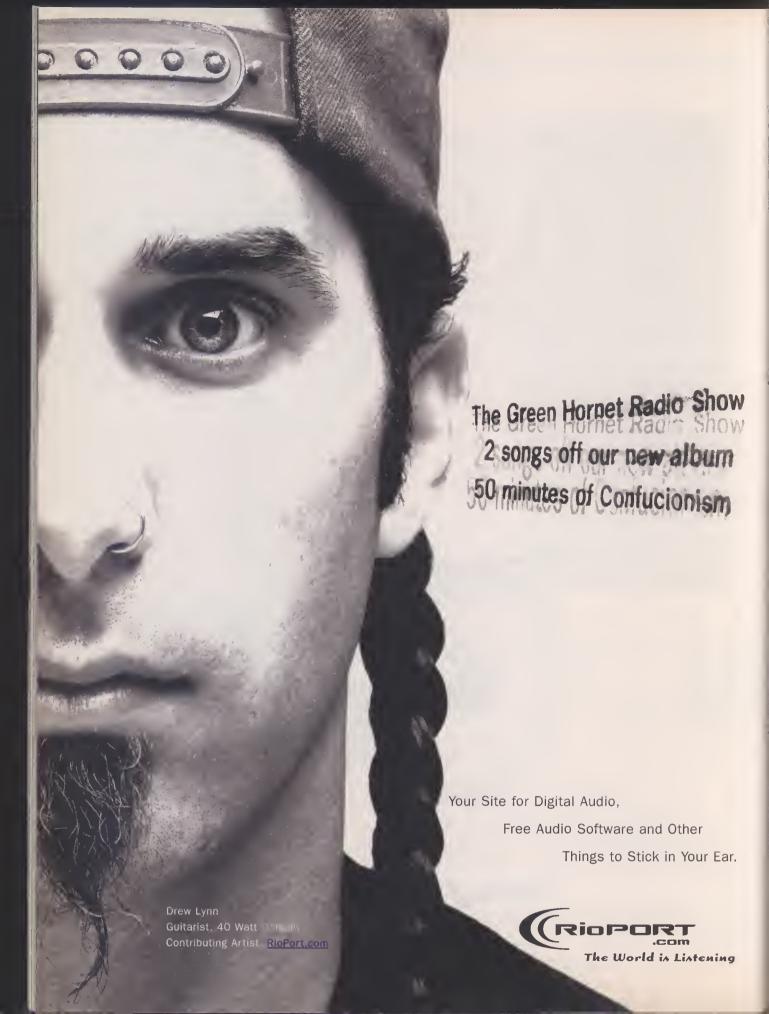
Lois Romano, reporter, Washington Post; George Lardner, reporter, Washington Post; Bill Kristol, editor, the Weekly Standard: [Also didn't return

Chatterbox's phone calls.] Chatterbox concludes: No idea. None of them appear to have been at their offices today.

- William Saletan, writer, *Slate*: "No." Chatterbox concludes: Probable no.
- David Plotz, writer, *Slate*: "No." Chatterbox concludes: Probable no.
- Jeffrey Stern, Chatterbox's college roommate: "Yeah, you big goofball. But I did it with you! (Don't tell my kids.)"
 Chatterbox concludes: Definitely lying. OK, OK, Stern isn't lying.... [slate.com/code/Chatterbox/Chatterbox.asp?Show=8/II/99&idMessage=3385]

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COOL TOOLS PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS ROGERS

4 GAME KEEPER

Until recently, memory cards were the only way for Sony PlayStation owners to save and transport video games. But thanks to InterAct's DexDrive, console players can store games on their PCs and e-mail them to friends. What for? To swap lethal kungfu-fighting combatants and coveted cheat codes. The device connects to a PC COM port and ships with DexPlorer software, a program that converts your games into a PC-readable format. InterAct also sells a DexDrive capable of saving Nintendo 64 games to your PC.

DEXDRIVE

\$40, InterAct, 410-785-4064 [www.dexdrive.com]

5 RADIO STAR

After agents Scully and Mulder investigate the KVT-10, they'll want to throw away their cell phones. These high-tech walkietalkies possess tiny LCD screens and built-in digital radio cameras. With the help of a transceiver, the units are capable of capturing still video images and transmitting them over the airwaves. The units can also upload digital images to a PC (via a serial cable connection), and they boast a 5-mile transmission range.

KVT-10

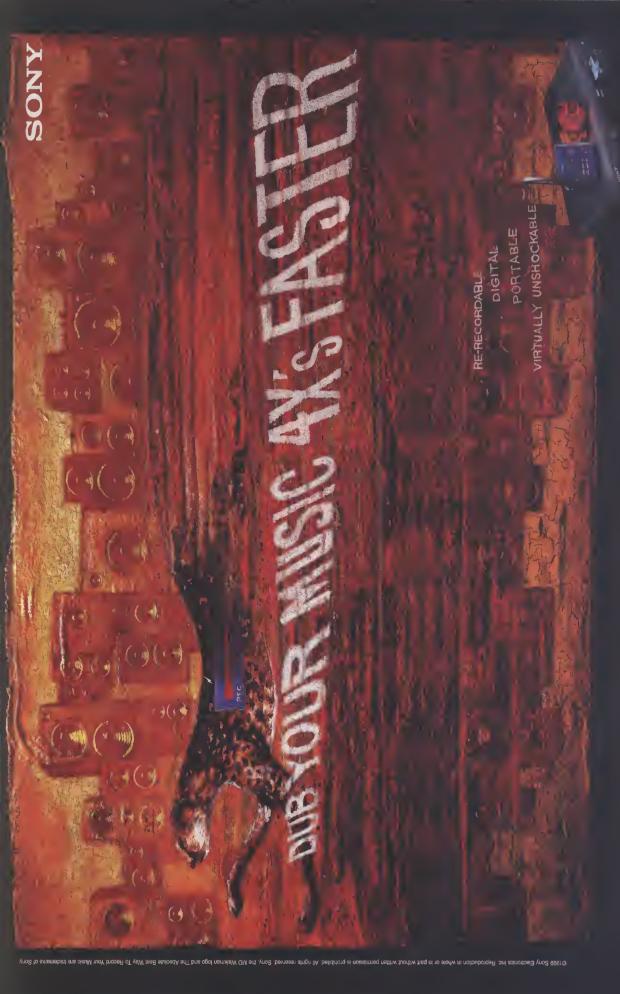
\$835, Kenwood Communications, 800-950-5005 [www.kenwoodusa.com]

6 WISE MICE

Tired of scraping off the nasty gunk that builds up inside your mouse? Well, Microsoft's new IntelliMouse Explorer can eliminate this undesirable task; the device uses an optical sensor, instead of a ball, to track mouse movements. The Intelli-Mouse's sensor is so powerful it can even track motion on irregular surfaces. In other words, you can practically slide the thing across a bed of gravel and still maintain excellent control of your cursor. Also, the mouse comes with a scrolling wheel and two customizable buttons, which you can set to handle browser navigation functions.

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ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS ONLINE BY MATT RICHTEL



Banishing the ghosts of Khe Sanh

Veterans of the bloody siege in Vietnam achieve an exorcism of sorts online

oward the end of 1967, Calm seemed to have settled over the verdant hillsides around the U.S. Marine air base in Khe Sanh, Vietnam. And in December, a transport plane dropped off 19-year-old Dave A. Dohrman—a Marine as green as the scenery—who heard he had lucked into a relatively safe assignment.

"They said this area was like an R&R center," Dohrman recalls.

Yeah, and Normandy was just a beach. A buildup of North Vietnamese troops in the area during the latter months of that year exploded on January 21, 1968,

into one of the most relentless attacks in modern military history. For 77 days, the North Vietnamese army laid waste to the Khe Sanh base with a punishing hail of artillery fire; the NVA, in turn, took a pounding from the U.S. Air Force.

Driven into underground bunkers, several thousand Marines at the Khe Sanh base dug into a plot of red clay earth no wider than three football fields. General William Westmoreland had declared the land to be a key barricade that would keep the North Vietnamese from celebrating a victory in Saigon.

The soldiers who defended that land—those who survived, at least—say they grew as close as family. Now they have turned to the Internet to revive their brotherhood, and to help heal through communication the fear that never quite went away.

Dohrman oversees the KHE SANH VETERANS HOME PAGE [www.geocities. com/Pentagon/4867], a site dedicated "to all who served and died" at the Khe Sanh air base from 1962 to 1972. He started the site in 1997 as an outgrowth of existing veterans' groups, thinking he'd attract a few tech-savvy vets. But since then, the site has mushroomed.

It now includes maps, memories, and photos of Khe Sanh's past and present. Much more important, though, is that the site has become a community. Hundreds of veterans of the siege list their e-mail addresses and phone numbers, hoping to get in touch with their brothers in arms—a friend who shared a bunker, perhaps, or a platoon-mate who got toted away on a stretcher.

"Until you make contact with a Khe Sanh vet, you wonder if you were even there," says Jim Wodecki. Now a 53-year-old contractor in Allen, Texas, Wodecki arrived at the base as a rgyear-old ammo technician and left as one of the "lucky ones," escaping without a wound.

No doubt, the siege cost each side dearly, but it certainly took a greater toll on the Vietnamese. More than 500 U.S. soldiers lost their lives, while the count of NVA dead is estimated at greater than ro,000—casualties of air strikes from B52 bombers whose payload could in a single day wipe out an area a half-mile wide and two miles long.

The B-52 raids came so close to the Khe Sanh base that the Marines could view the devastation as if from 50-yard-line seats. "You could watch the bodies tumble through the air," Dohrman says.

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Fabrizio Ferri

Introducing BOSS Hugo Boss. Exclusively at JASMIN.COM

Comparatively speaking, Dohrman—who had his eardrums blown out three times and suffered "miscellaneous shrapnel wounds"—got off lightly. But the experience left his innocence in tatters: When February 28 came, he celebrated his 20th birthday by praying it wouldn't be his last. "There was a huge incoming barrage that day," Dohrman says, adding that he never bothered to tell anyone it was his birthday. "We set a record for incoming rounds."

In April and May, the North Vietnamese began a retreat from the hills surrounding the base. General Westmoreland, in a change of strategic direction,

Now, Husted says, Dohrman's Web site has given him and his fellow soldiers the power to reconnect, to share stories, and to come to peace

ordered the Marines to pull out, unilaterally destroying what was left of a base that had cost so many lives to defend. By July 1968, nothing was left of the installation, and the Khe Sanh siege became a symbol of the senseless loss of life throughout the war.

Ernie Husted Jr., now 52 and a fire-equipment inspector in Springfield, Ohio, was known to his comrades at Khe Sanh as "the Preacher," because he had contemplated becoming a minister. Husted says he is still astonished that the U.S. government gave soldiers "not old enough to drink the power over life and death."

Now, Husted says, Dohrman's Web site has given him and his fellow soldiers the power to reconnect, to share stories, and to come to peace with the idea of fighting and killing enemies in horrifically intimate battles.

"The Web site is very good at enabling us to share our experiences," Husted says. "And only by sharing can we work out experiences that seem like they happened yesterday."



AIDING TURKEY

[www.iecnc.org]

tated northwestern Turkey in August, while one of the worst natural disasters to affect the region, also displayed the potential of the Net to help during such crises. With virtually all phone lines to the country either down or overloaded, many people turned to the family-run INTER-

NET EDUCATION
CENTERIN NORTHERN CYPRUS,
which helped locate
hundreds of people
in the aftermath.
Receiving queries
via e-mail and ICQ,
the IECNC forwarded the information to volun-

teers with laptops and cell phones in the quake zone, who then tried to locate the missing persons. Most of the IECNC's queries were received thanks to BBC NEWS Inews. bbc.co.uk], which created message boards that served as a clearinghouse for information about the lost and found. In the end, it was the generosity and compassion of volunteers in the quake zone that made it all work. "We have not come across anyone unwilling to help," says David Thomas of the IECNC. "The Internet has a huge potential. We didn't realize this until the

proves that the Internet can affect people."

COPING WITH DIVORCE

[www.mindspring.com/
~blittle/odosbucket/adoc]

t's an all-ton-common story:

t's an all-too-common story: Lara Berton Little was griefstricken when her parents got divorced. The twist is that Little wasn't so small at the time. Already 24 when

her parents
split up
several
years ago,
she says she
nevertheless
experienced a
sense of despair.
To help soften the
blow for others, Little, a librarian, created ADULT CHILDREN

OF DIVORCE. "If even one person reads this and sees themselves in it and is reassured," Little writes of her story and site, "then it is worth it."

FIGHTING CANCER

[www.ktf.org]

that made it all work. "We have not come across anyone unwilling to help," says David Thomas of the IECNC. "The Internet has a huge potential. We didn't realize this until the earthquake in Turkey. It just

Sound morbid? Well this and nine other thought-provoking credos come courtesy of KEEPIN' THE FAITH!. a passignate and humorous site for people with cancer-especially those determined to turn their mutant cells into mincemeat. But the site is not mere militancy. It includes dozens of links to informational and support resources for different forms of cancer: to activist groups; to spiritual encouragement (the site itself is nondenominational); and to a roster of volunteers ready to provide one-on-one e-mail support.

BIDDING ADIEU TO A CENTURY

[www.bbc.co.uk/ worldservice/mycentury]

hese days, it seems that there are enough retrospectives on the 20th century (best films, sports teams, artists, politicians, etc.) to keep a pop-history buff busy far into the next millennium. Count on the BBC to raise the concept to a new level. BRC WORLD SERVICE: MY CEN-TURY... features reflections on some of the classic moments of the past hundred years in the words of the era's leading thinkers and other renowned figures. Joining this elite in looking back, however, is a broad array of average citizens. Indeed, the site encourages common



folk to send their memories of events they've witnessed, whether pertaining to war, relationships, or the great people who shaped our century. THIS MONTH'S MOST PRACTICAL DESTINATIONS

BY RICHARD BUTNER

BUSINESS INSIGHT ONLINE [www.businessinsight.org] first, and get a forecast of how your business may fare down the road. Answer a 50question quiz about vour existing or proposed business model and the site will return an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. This questionnaire is a simple version of an expert-system software program for sale here, but the quiz is a useful freebie on its own.

Pick the

Right Dog CAN'T TELL A IACK RUSSELL TERRIER FROM AN Irish setter? Consult THE DOG BREED INFOR-MATION CENTER [www.dogbreedinfo.com] for some quick answers. Pick the name of the breed in which you're interested and you'll get pictures, a description of that dog's exercise and grooming needs, and a list of typical health problems. Those embarking on a dog quest can search for a compatible breed using such criteria as "very light shedders," "dogs for allergy sufferers," and "excellent jogging companions." The site is not related to any kennel club or organization, so it also gives a fair shake to unofficial breeds. such as the Bluetick and the Rat Terrier.

Get Business Advice

ARE YOU AN ENTREPRENEUR WITH fantasies of being on the cover of Business Week? If so, visit

Track Local Campaign Funds

WHO'S FUNDING YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL POL?

FOLLOW THE MONEY [www.followthemoney.
org] identifies and categorizes state politicos' financial angels. Find your state on
the map and click on it to view a listing
of the total funds contributed during a
given year, the number of contributions,
and a bar chart that breaks down the
sources of those dollars. Drill down further to read specifics on particular candidates and contributors.

Price Your Ride

we've found several incredibly useful price guides for automobiles, but what if you get around on a boat or a motorcycle? Whether you're buying or selling, you can check the N.A.D.A. APPRAISAL GUIDES [www.nadaguides.com/ValuesHome.html]

for the fair market value of all kinds of transportation from RVs to snowmobiles. As with other price guides, just choose your model and year, then select the options installed, and you'll get the appraised value. Now you'll know what that old Airstream is worth.

Read Newsworthy Biographies

WHEN THE PARTY CONVERSATION TURNS to politics, do you find yourself slinking off to the snack table? Brush up on names in the news at CNN INTERACTIVE: NEWSMAKER PROFILES [cnn.com/resources/newsmakers]. Read detailed



biographies of all the major players, from Kofi Annan to Boris Yeltsin. (Who knew that Yeltsin lost two fingers at the age of II while disassembling a grenade he stole from a weapons warehouse?) Pretty soon you can wow your peers, instead of stuffing your face with salmon mousse.

Transfer Big Files

MOST E-MAIL SYSTEMS LIMIT THE SIZE OF FILE attachments. But when you are using **CLICK2SEND** [www.click2send.com] as an intermediary, you can send and receive as much as 50 megabytes of text or graphics. This practical service is entirely free, but it's not anonymous, so spammers can't take advantage of all that additional capacity. What's more, you can send a

AHUA: LIZ & JEFF VON HDENE/TDNY STONE IMAGES; ANNAN. AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTDS; BOAT VCG/F



Do you really want "sitting down and getting on the Net" added to your daily list of complications? We didn't think so. It's why we've dedicated ourselves to making the Internet as simple as possible. Simple set-up. Simple to use. Simple answers. Visit www.mindspring.com.

single file to a list of recipients, not just one at a time. But before you go crazy, you should still ask your friends if they want the entire 100-photo collection of your last trip to Branson, Missouri, in a *single* file.



Play with Photos

YOUR GEARHEAD NEIGHBOR HAS A DIGITAL camera and runs Photoshop, while you have barely enough extra memory to launch a spreadsheet. But you can still play with digital images at the KODAK PIC-TURE PLAYGROUND ONLINE [altsl.kodak. com/US/en/corp/playground]. Upload a picture file from your hard disk, point to one elsewhere on the Web, or grab one from a roll of film you've had printed to a CD. Then you can choose one of several Photoshop-like processes to apply to your picture—make it psychedelic. cartoonish, antique, or black and white—and save the results. Just don't go shaving pounds and inches off your spouse-unless you know the right answer to "Do you think I look heavy?"

Find Kid-Friendly Pix

LET YOUR KIDS LOOSE WITH AN image-based search engine, and there's no telling what they'll come across when searching for baby dolls. Fortunately, **DITTO.COM** links to unobjectionable pictures only. And even if you're not out to block adult content,

this smart system simply provides better results: You will get pictures of *David* Bowie when you search on *Bowie*, and not images of bowie knives. That's because humans, not software programs, are screening the results—and not at the expense of breadth, either.

Get a Job Overseas

IF YOU'RE BORED WITH THE SAME OLD 9-TO-5 grind and are suffering from an acute case of wanderlust, consider a visit to **ESCAPE**ARTIST [www.escapeartist.com], a portal for people who want to live and work overseas. Pick the country of your choice—from Antarctica to Zimbabwe—for tips on how to move there and find a job. See you in Singapore.

Follow Usenet Threads

THE NEWSGROUPS OF USENET (FOR INSTANCE, alt.tv.x-files) are full of good information, but that information is often overshadowed by spam, inappropriate posts, and general idiocy. If you want to keep tabs on a particular Usenet thread, but you don't want to constantly wade through the newsgroups, try DEJA.COM: DEJA TRACKER [www.deja.com/mydn_tracker.xp]. Register for free and you can automatically track Usenet

threads of interest, getting e-mail when a new post appears into that discussion about Harleys you started on rec.motorcycles.

Learn About Poison Control

"BE PREPARED," THE BOY Scouts say—and that advice includes poison control in your home. To find the address of your nearest poison-emergency facility, click on the interactive U.S. map at AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF POISON CONTROL CENTERS [www.aapcc.org]. There's also valuable information here on poisoning prevention.

INCREDIBLY USEFUL DOWNLOADS

LISTEN UP There's nothing new about creating custom labels for your CD jewel cases. But with the advent of recordable CDs, you're going to want the most attractive options out there. SURETHING CD LABELER [www.mvd.com] leads you by the hand through boundless setup wizards and design ideas to make highly personalized, artistic CD-case labels for your best compilations. Browse its clever clip-art selection, experiment with fonts (but don't overdo it, please), and finish off your work with a cool graphic. Free trial: \$39.95 to buy.

AHEAD OF THE PACK Who's going to notice if you forgo that last lap or pass up the daily run entirely for an extra hour of sleep? Well, you will have to reckon with THE RUNNER'S LOG [www. cadvision.com/humeniuw], your new



track diary. Its colorful journal format lets you record as much or as little as you want about each day's outing, including speed, location, and weather; what type of shoes you own; and, yes, even your mood swings. Free trial, \$10 to register.

STORM SEEKER Living in the Southeast is no fun during hurricane season. But why wait for Al Roker's predictions as next vear's hostile brood of named visitors comes to call? STARSTONE'S EYE OF THE STORM [www.starstonesoftware. com/eots] tracks multiple hurricanes and tropical storms across the Atlantic and East Pacific. Start by plotting a storm manually-with coordinates, speed, and heading-or by downloading storm locations from the software's site. Then, with the winds gusting, scroll across hemispheres on an interactive map in search of the incoming squalls. Just don't forget to log off and evacuate when things get crazy. Free.

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following location code during step 2 of the checkout process and save \$5 on your order.* (1YAGD)



OLO WAY NET WAY

COMPARING THE TRIED-AND-TRUE WITH THE NET-AND-NEW BY DAVID SHEFF

Researching census info

OLD WAY

The research project, I needed to find out the number of young people aged 15 to 19 in America. I went to the library and hit the stacks. I found volumes of recent census information, but I was unable to determine the number of older teens in America.

2 After a while, I gave up and went over to the reference librarian, who said that she would call me later with the information.

3 Returned home and discovered that she had already called, leaving the information on my answering machine.

TIME ELAPSED:

20 minutes at the library

COMMENTS:

The librarian was exceedingly helpful.



NET WAY

I To double-check the data found by the librarian, I searched the Net under *census* and came up with an enormous number of sites and references. Pored through them, but was unable to come up with the figure I needed.

2 Because I'd heard so much about **ASK JEEVES** [www.askjeeves.com], I decided to try this novel search engine, in which you input a simple question in English. However, what the engine offered in the way of an answer was useless. Instead of addressing my question directly, Jeeves told me, "I know the answers to these questions," and listed the following: "Which U.S. states have parental consent or notification restrictions on abortion?" and "Where can I find the history of the country United States?" There were links

to "Porn nude teenagers" and "Teenage orthodontic patients." Ask Jeeves was a joke.

3 More surfing led me to **YOUTHINFO** [Youth.os.dhhs. gov], a site developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The answer was here: 19.3 million.

TIME ELAPSED:

47 minutes

COMMENTS: Wow! The federal government actually produced something useful with our tax dollars.

► WINNER: OLD WAY

I knew the information was on the Net, but I didn't find a simple way to locate it. The librarian made the job much quicker and easier.

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Finding the time in Paris and Shanghai



OLD WAY

On a particularly hectic day, I needed to call my son in Paris and a friend in Shanghai. To figure out the time differences (from Pacific time), I called the local "o" operator, who referred me to the "oo" long-distance operator.

2 Dialed "oo" and was connected to an operator who was able to tell me the current time in those two cities.

TIME ELAPSED:

2 minutes

COMMENTS: Efficient, though it took two calls.

NFT WAY

2 Searched for time zone converter at YAHOO! [www.yahoo.com] and was presented with several choices. I tried the one named simply TIME ZONE CONVERTER [www.timezoneconverter.com], which asks, "What time is it in..." and offers a pull-down menu of cities around the world. I clicked on Europe/Paris and then on Asia/Shanghai. The site gave me the local times.

TIME ELAPSED:

40 seconds

COMMENTS: It's a very cool tool.

WINNER: NET WAY

The Old Way didn't take much longer, though.

Deciding what to make for dinner

OLD WAY

It was dinnertime, yet again. I wanted to come up with something interesting to cook—without having to go to the store. I opened and closed the refrigerator and checked the pantry about six times. There wasn't much on hand to inspire me: some pasta, a melon, various cans of beans, fresh tomatoes, an eggplant, garlic, a few potatoes, and staples like spices, flour, milk, etc., plus a few other assorted ingredients.

2 The only thing I could think of to make sounded ho-hum: pasta with tomato sauce. I could throw in the eggplant, but I remained unmotivated.

TIME ELAPSED:

10 minutes looking and brooding

COMMENTS: Pasta would have been fine, but we'd already had it a couple of times that week.

NET WAY

Recalling a friend's advice, I went online and headed to a site called ucook.com [www.ucook.com]. I was rewarded with lots of recipes and information about food. I tried a helpful feature called Find a Recipe at the top of the opening page. I typed in a list of the ingredients I wanted to use and clicked Search.

2 Fifty recipes soon arrived, including an eggplant-and-tomato curry, a vegetable pie, and a bunch of potato recipes.

3 Made the curry, which was very good. Will try the vegetable pie recipe next week.

TIME ELAPSED:

A few minutes searching

COMMENTS: The search results *did* include some recipes that called for ingredients that I didn't have, but I was able to improvise.



► WINNER: NET WAY

The site allowed me to make use of the ingredients I had on hand in ways that I never would have imagined.

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- Fred Lugano, weatherization.com, Vermon

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Finding the time in Paris and Shanghai



OLD WAY

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TIME ELAPSED:

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COMMENTS: Efficient, though it took two calls.

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COMMENTS: It's a very cool tool.

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oes driving scenic roads taking in awe-inspiring vistas, trekking through vast tracts of virgin forest, or kayaking on crystal-clear waters appeal to you? Then look no further than the United States National Parks System. A true national treasure. the US National Parks offer everything from backcountry solitude to popular national monuments. And there's no better place to plan your next National Park trip than on the Net.

From Acadia in Maine to Zion in Utah, a great place to start your

National Parks search is at the American Parks Network (http://www.americanparksnetwork.com). This comprehensive guide lets you explore the country's most spectacular natural wonders. Learn about each park's history, their available activities, make camping reservations or visit chat areas to share information.

You can also find very interesting Park facts here: What's the most visited National Park? The Great Smoky Mountains Park. which receives over 9 million visitors annually. The first National Park? Yellowstone Park, founded in 1872. In which park will you find the world's oldest and largest living organisms? A trip to Sequoia and King's Canyon National Park, CA will bring you face-to-face with the massive Sequoia tree. These monsters grow to over 300 feet tall, have bases of up to 40 feet in diameter, can live for 3,200 years and weigh 2.7 million pounds! But the Sequoia is neither the oldest nor tallest tree, those distinctions belong to the Bristlecone pine and Redwood respectively, which are also found nearby.

Want to head off the beaten path? The Web's a great spot to find a wealth of untrammeled spots. GORP - the Great Outdoors Recreation Page -at (http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_ national park/main.htm). GORP highlights National Parks with staggering natural beauty and few visitors. A good example is North



Cascades Park in northern Washington state. Glaciers, lakes. waterfalls and miles of old growth forest make this park a jewel and with only 27,000 backcountry campers a year, you're virtually guaranteed this space to yourself. For a taste of history, GORP recommends visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. After venturing out here in the 1880s, bereaving the death of his first wife, Teddy wrote of his adventures, "I would not have been President, had it not been for

my experience in North Dakota."

GORP also delves into park alternatives including, beaches, rivers, national monuments, national forests and scenic drives by state (http://www.gorp.com/gorp/location/us/us.htm). Speaking of scenic drives, try this one on for size - tracing the Lewis & Clark Trail by car. Plan about two weeks on the road to follow these intrepid explorers' route up the Missouri River to the northern Rockies. through the Columbia River gorge and ending at the Pacific coast. Where they marveled at the beauty of the Western landscape 180 years ago, you still can today.

Ready to start your adventure? Then pay a quick visit to these urls to pick up some essentials. A stop by (http://www.outdoor experts.com/outdoorexperts/topomaps.html) will get you topographic maps for any National Park. Then pop over to http://www.mapsonus.com for door-to-door directions.

Now you're ready to hit the road, ply the waters or trek the trails on your way to discovering all the natural beauty that our National Parks have to offer. Enjoy, and remember that the Net is your best resource for finding everything you need for your adventure.



Unfortunately, some of our Parks are victims of their own success, and face environmental threats from pollution, degrading infrastructures and overcrowding. For example, 50 years ago, the summertime views from Great Smoky Mountains National Park averaged 60 miles. Today, that average is 12 miles. In 1998 the park recorded its worst year for groundlevel ozone, which has been documented to be damaging 30 species of indigenous plants. Want to help? Then check out Leave No Trace (www.int.org) a non-profit organization dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places. Leave No Trace is about enjoying the great outdoors while traveling and camping with care. Subaru is a proud partner with LNT. For more information on Subaru, check out www.subaru.com.

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Net clairvoyant

Novelist **William Gibson** began looking at cyberspace—his word—before anyone

OU DIDN'T COIN THE TERM CYBERSPACE. NEITHER DID AL GORE. That honor goes to sci-fi writer William Gibson, who cooked up the idea of an agglomeration of the world's computer data in his trail-blazing 1984 novel *Neuromancer*. In the 15 years since, cyberspace has come to be synonymous with the Internet, and the Internet

has grown to be one of the most powerful technological and cultural forces in the world. Gibson, perhaps not coincidentally, has gone on to become one of the world's most respected writers of

science-fiction novels.

The label, of course, is something that Gibson bristles at: His books, he insists, aren't really about the future, and don't have much in common with the vast majority of sci-fi. No matter. His dark, dataclotted worldview has been immensely influential, reflected in everything from television (*The X-Files*, to which Gibson has contributed as a writer) to film (*The Matrix*, which was powered by a number of Gibsonian conceits) to music (Kyoko Date, the computer-synthesized Japanese pop star, is a virtual embodiment of the title character of Gibson's 1996 novel *Idoru*).

These days, Gibson is on tour to promote his sixth novel, *All Tomorrow's Parties* (an excerpt appears on page 124). A characteristically dark story, leavened by Gibson's characteristically warped humor, the novel continues the adventures of Berry Rydell and Chevette Washington, a star-crossed couple who made their debut in his 1993 novel *Virtual Light*, and Colin Laney, the mysterious data-wrangler from *Idoru*.

Just before the publicity tour, Gibson took time out to discuss his present novel, the future of novels in general, and the way the future will influence the Internet (and vice versa).

Y-LIFE: So, how does it feel to be the man who coined the term *cyberspace*?

GIBSON: It's like a tattoo.

Y-LIFE: How did the term come to you? GIBSON: It was a visual experience. This was back in 1981. I had seen the Sony Walkman, which was at the time a shiny, new, and rather radical piece of technology. I had also seen the ads for the Apple IIc, which showed the machine without its bulky monitor. It was this tiny little briefcase thing, which was very forward, very futuristic. Somehow in my visual imagination I put those two together and it suggested something. I had also been watching kids play early arcade games, and the intensity of what they were doing suggested that they were trying to get through to the other side of the screen.

At the time, of course, I was trying to write science fiction. The science fiction I had grown up with was about space, and the technology that moved you through it was the spaceship. Those didn't work for me at all emotionally. I needed something else.

Y-LIFE: Were there other terms that you tried out before settling on *cyberspace? Dataspace? Compuspace? Calculaspace?*

GIBSON: Iliterally sat with a yellow legal pad and a Sharpie going through *infospace*



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and dataspace and all those. They were all deadly, really bad. Then I looked twice at cuberspace, and looked at it a third time. It's a strange call. It's like naming a product. But the word was interesting to me, evocative. Probably if I hadn't been able to recognize the difference, and I had gone for infospace, my career wouldn't have happened. It wasn't so much of a "Eureka!" moment, but it was a pivotal moment. In the course of writing "Burning Chrome." the first short story that mentioned cyberspace, I did start to get excited about it, because I thought I did have something original, and that's very rare in science fiction.

Y-LIFE: Have you followed the Internet with devout interest all along the way, or are you a casual observer?

GIBSON: I'm more interested in the Internet now, actually, I've become more interested in it as it spreads and as the general level of connectivity continues to spread. I've become more interested in it to the exact extent that it ceases to be something that requires any sort of skill level. As the learning curve decreases on being an Internet user, as we move out of the crystal-radio-hobbyist phase of the medium and into something more like television in the ease of its ubiquity of operation, I become more interested.

Y-LIFE: You've said in the past that you're not a futurist, but you do write about the near future. Is it strange to see the gap between your speculative future and the known present narrowing so rapidly? Is it strange to see journalists writing about the same thing as you?

GIBSON: I think I'm already there. It's the evolved version of all those disclaimers I've been putting out for years. I'm working where journalists are going to have to work, in a world where certain things are further into the future than other things. Everything is emergent. In a world like that, the line between imagination and what's happening right now gets very fuzzy.

Y-LIFE: What about TV/PC convergence? **GIBSON**: Whatever is emerging from what we call the Internet today is going to be the medium. Everything else, all other media, will be part of it. If you look at what's happening with popular music, that's creating a blueprint for how other media are created and delivered. It's for the sake of convenience. The Net's power, I think, lies in its ability to deliver anything—anything that can be digitized.

What worries me most is the increase in niche-marketing to very young children...the hirth of children as customers

Y-LIFE: So you see video on demand, film on demand?

GIBSON: I think so. I think it will come from both ends. The cable people making every television set a Web-surfing unit, for the times when you want it to bethat's headed in one direction. It all seems to be moving in this direction, so much so that I doubt-I have always doubtedthat our grandchildren would think of themselves as having computers. Everything will be online.

Y-LIFE: Who will control the Net? Can the government even hope to?

GIBSON: Well, there is no "the government." We're talking about a global activity. There are a bunch of governments and a bunch of nation-states. In the absence of a serious New World Order, these nationstates aren't going to be able to agree on enough points to do anything about content. We didn't legislate this technology into existence. We seldom do legislate new technologies into existence. And we don't seem to have a mechanism for legislating around the new technologies that we have.

Probably the most fascinating thing about the world we live in is that it's out of control. The growth of this thing that we've seen emerging since the end of the Second World War isn't under anyone's control. It's not hierarchical. I'm inclined to think that's so to the extent that it's dangerous.

Y-LIFE: What could make a government try to control it? War?

GIBSON: Trying to edit the contents of the Net is sort of like trying to edit the content of reality. One of the problems that any national government faces-if you look at how governments deal with controlling the flow of information through this thing to its citizens—is that they just think of it as a tube through which information is flowing from point A to point B, and they try to close it.

We have created a national space that's extra-geographical. There's always some place where somebody's doing anything. It will find its way into your country if you want it badly enough, given the sort of encryption that is available to anyone at all today. There are cleverer forms of encryption. You can encrypt text in image, or image in text. I don't think anyone uses those techniques or anything.

Y-LIFE: Physical smuggling will still be difficult, though. It won't be easy to bring plutonium across the border. But what about contraband that can be digitized—specifically, digital drugs and pornography?

GIBSON: Digital drugs?

Y-LIFE: Programs that alter your mental state. Wouldn't that be just as volatile as psychoactive substances?

GIBSON: What would be more likely to happen is that the information digitally exchanged is the information for making actual psychoactive substances. Pornography is probably more politically interesting, although I haven't got a clue what can be done about it.

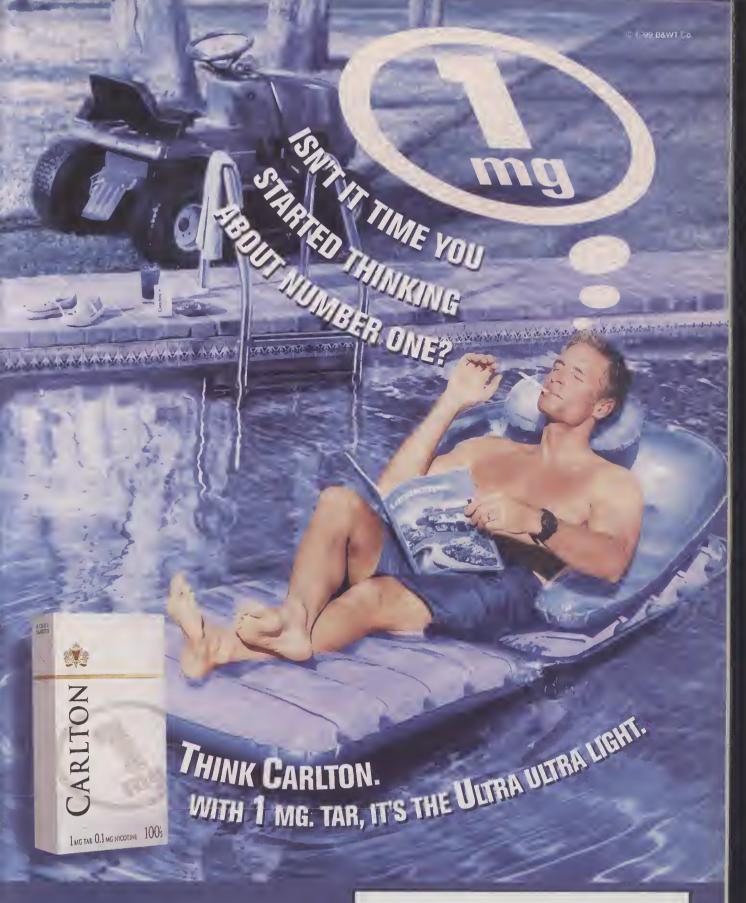
Something that's often been pointed out to me in the last ro years is that pornography has been, throughout the modern era, at the cutting edge of every new technology. I didn't know until quite recently that the Union army in the Civil War marched with massive quantities of the first massproduced pornographic photography. Matthew Brady-era Civil War porn. Some is charming; some is as brutally hard-core as anything you'd see today. Right at the beginning of photography as a mass medium. I ended up wandering around with my friend in an antiques mart.

Y-LIFE: And the porn industry almost has its own Internet-you go to one site, and suddenly you can't escape from porn sites in general. It's like a well with slippery walls. New screens pop up, links multiply.

GIBSON: That is kind of alarming. You don't even have to be looking for it. You could be searching for bagel shops, and suddenly, wham! The Web tentacles of the porn lords are an alarming thing. I don't knowparents should be able to install some sort of filter, but I kind of think we're stuck with it. We're going to have to learn to be more responsible, as individuals and as a species.

Y-LIFE: And as parents?

GIBSON: Yeah. I have a 15-year-old daughter, and she's out there with no training



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wheels on her computer. I don't monitor what she looks at. The interesting thing is that what she does look at isn't porn.

Y-LIFE: What if your daughter was five? What do you think the biggest difference would be raising a kid into his or her teen years now, with technology the way it is?

GIBSON: What worries me most is the increase in niche-marketing to very young children. I got to watch the growth of that: the targeting of children, and the birth of children as customers.

Y-LIFE: Do you think this, like porn, is something that's irreversible?

GIBSON: It's something we're going to have to learn to live with. I think that young kids today are probably more conscious of being marketed to. I'm often stunned by my daughter's sophistication in that regard—that without ever having been taught these things, she understands when her demographic is being gotten at, and whether it's being gotten at or not. She knows when she's being marketed to. Although last week she told me, "Have you seen the new Gap commercials? They make me want to buy clothes at the Gap." I guess someone's doing his job right.

Y-LIFE: Douglas Rushkoff's new book, Coercion, argues that as consumers become more sophisticated, marketers will have to become more subtle and sophisticated themselves.

GIBSON: That's the way to go, if you're a marketer. I don't think people would easily tolerate more-aggressive banner ads. There's a point at which it becomes selfdefeating. It's like anti-advertising. People start to hate your product because its logo starts to appear in what they consider their private space. You have to be giving people something with advertising in order to tolerate it being there. It ups the ante.

Y-LIFE: You have a vested interest in the future. But what about the past? Is there anything in your life for which you feel real nostalgia?

GIBSON: It's often hard to say what you've lost. I was in London a few years ago, and I was there a few months before that. In between my visits, the number of cell phones had increased tenfold. Suddenly it seemed that every human being on the street had a cell phone. There must have been deregulation. Something drastic happened there. I was really aware of how that altered the psycho-geography of the city. I

It's very hard for me to imagine a future in which anyone but very poor and marginalized people would be excited by their new computer

couldn't get a handle on it.

Before, the experience of navigating through London—you were in the maze, in a way, and you had to deal with what was right in front of you. It was challenging. Now there were people who weren't blind anymore. They were communicating with the people on the other end as they got there. I really noticed it. I thought, "The experience that I had of this place will never really be available to me again. The place has changed." I can go there, and my cell phone doesn't work, so for me it's a vacation. But for other people, it's not anymore. I don't know that I'm articulating it well.

Y-LIFE: Well, it certainly changes the way that people relate to their environment. Five years ago, if you saw people on the street in London, you could be pretty sure that their primary environment was that London street. Now, with the cell phone, they could be in their Indianapolis home or in a conference room in Stuttgart. Also, you have people roaming the streets, appearing to be talking to themselves.

GIBSON: That's the other thing I noticed in London: Everyone seemed to have the little lapel-and-ear set. It seems to be part of the outfit.

Y-LIFE: But do you think that's just in London? As this technology becomes global, will different countries have different responses to it?

GIBSON: Definitely. Something else that struck me as interesting in London is that they're so far ahead of us in terms of the ubiquity of video surveillance. I suppose that happened in the '80s and '90s, under the impetus of the IRA threat. You're on video everywhere. Municipal cameras on the street—they're often in these sort of smoked-Perspex bubbles, to make it more panoptic.

A friend of mine pointed out that if you're

shopping for clothes, virtually every piece of outerwear has a hood. The hoods were to provide a privacy, which I sort of bought. I was looking around on subway platforms. and it's true: They all have hoods. It's the only way to stay off-camera.

Y-LIFE: What about Web cams? Is it true that you're a fan of Ana Voog's Anacam [see "Room Within a View," October '99, page 112]?

GIBSON: She was one of the first that I ran across. I liked her because she was kind of like a garage Idoru. She was doing it herself.

Y-LIFE: Will Web cams be a passing fad. like the pet rock, or will they really revolutionize the way we communicate?

GIBSON: I think the current cams are the larval form of something else. It'll be interesting to see what it's going to become. The key thing there for me is the way in which this stuff doesn't need to be hierarchical. We're still thinking in terms of broadcast television—of what constitutes a medium. The potential this new technology has is for being two-way, non-hierarchical. People busking on the streets can be selling you their CD, and it's indistinguishable from serious product. These are just buskers. They'll have their Web site on the back of the CD. It's new. It's interesting stuff.

Y-LIFE: When you go back through your old novels, is there anything that grew in the opposite direction? Any predictions you made that have turned out, in time, to be utterly wrongheaded?

GIBSON: I'm sure that if I went back through those books, I could find more specific examples. What I didn't anticipate in the early books was the ubiquity and the ordinariness that would come with the spread of the stuff. In Neuromancer, you're told that everything is being transacted, but the feeling you get is that it's high corporate, military, criminal. It's not people exchanging cherry-pie recipes.

Y-LIFE: The eBay factor?

GIBSON: Yes. The eBay factor, I didn't get. Also, depicting the sheer ubiquity of the thing is hard.

Y-LIFE: Meaning what? That if the Net is everywhere, it's hard to comment upon it?

GIBSON: Yes. I've always felt a little challenged by that. A completely naturalistic contemporary novel really doesn't dwell very much on the nature of television. We just accept it. It's an aspect of reality. I sometimes wonder, if anybody looks at my stuff in 200 years, whether they won't be puzzled by this strange hypervigilance with regard to information. I've heard people joke for years that eventually computers will be given away to encourage the sale of software. That's beginning to happen. It's very hard for me to imagine a future in which anyone but very, very poor and marginalized people would be excited by their new computer. It's like a shoe.

Y-LIFE: As you continue to write about new technologies, are there aspects of the Net that you feel you haven't yet addressed?

GIBSON: One of the things I'm trying to figure out is how one could write a novel in more or less the traditional form that would reflect this new kind of global connectivity. This sort of simultaneous experience outside of geography that individuals are now having. These strange connections that people make by virtue of being on the Net. These are wonderfully weird things.

It's a wonderful time to be writing the kind of stuff that I like to write, because science fiction is like now.

Y-LIFE: Let's talk about the new novel. Do you plot your books ahead of time?

GIBSON: Not at a conscious level. They

reveal themselves to me as I go along. What happened with the first three books, beginning with Neuromancer, is that I started discovering subtexts that I hadn't been aware of before. I'd get to the end of what is pretty much a nonrational process, and I would find myself baffled by artifacts in the text that I didn't understand, things that emerged unconsciously. I'd start working on those and trying to figure out what they meant.

Y-LIFE: Did you resolve to pick up the stories of certain characters?

GIBSON: With *Virtual Light* and *Idoru*, I felt that I had two books that were triangulating on some sort of third story in some sort of way that I hadn't really had before. I don't think of myself as somebody who writes trilogies.

Y-LIFE: Because it's a sci-ficommonplace? GIBSON: Yes. In fact, I made an effort with Neuromancer to keep myself from doing that. There's a line at the end of the book that's something like, "And he never saw Molly again." I put that into the galleys to keep myself from creeping sequelitis. I've always thought of that as being a weakness of the genre. That was a political point of the cyber-

punk manifesto: Every work of science fiction should strive to be its own thing.

Y-LIFE: Do you think sequelitis is a result of writers' not wanting to leave these worlds they have created, or do you think it springs from publishers' economic motives?

GIBSON: It's a combination of the two. I don't actually believe that it's an inherently bad thing. I don't think it lends itself to the production of good novels. It's more like episodic television.

I like to write books that I can imagine someone like myself would like to read. Most of those are one-on-one, stand-alone works of fiction. I don't have a taste for that series thing. I watch my daughter reading, and I see its place. I also see how it would be a very, very good thing. You don't ever have to die. I've mentioned sharecropping before: It's like Tom Clancy supervising two other guys to write vaguely Tom Clancy—like material. That may well be the future of novel writing.

Y-LIFE: If there *is* a future. We've heard so much about the death of the novel. Hypertext is supposed to kill linear narrative. The e-book is supposed to conquer





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Y-LIFE INTERVIEW

the codex. What do you think will happen to literature?

GIBSON: I'm inclined to believe that someone somewhere will still be doing it. It's been such a strange, strange decade to be in the business of literature. Or, as a Hollywood producer delighted me by saying a few years ago, "You're in the book industry." He said, "I'm in the film industry, and you're in the book industry." We're kind of shy about putting it this way.

I wouldn't have predicted that, in the course of the death of the novel, all of these megabookstores would sprout up and become what marketers like to call "endpoint destinations." Hanging out in these huge bookstores has become part of modern life. I suspect there's something going on there where the sheer volume of publishing has been inflated in order to provide units to fill all those racks and all of those purposebuilt structures in all of those malls.

I suspect we're publishing more novels, and more are being written, than ever before. It's certainly obvious to me that the number of science-fiction novels today would have been unbelievable to

me when I was 20 years old. I could go in and look at the entire month's publishing output, which would be maybe nine books in a good month. These days, it's just a flood. The sheer scale of the business is breathtaking.

Y-LIFE: When you were 20 years old, and reading sci-fi books, were you planning on becoming a sci-fi author? Were you reading to write?

GIBSON: In a sense, I was reading to write when I was 15 or 16. By my early twenties, I had decided that it was sort of a silly thing and that I should pursue something hipper. But I never did, and I wound up going back.

I didn't start writing until I was about 30. What I discovered then, or thought I discovered, is that science fiction in the meantime had gotten thinner. I had dropped it through the '70s, hadn't paid much attention to it. And when I came back, there was more of it, but less content. I thought, "Here's a viable, traditional 20th-century pop art form that is bankrupt in a really interesting way." That was one of the things that attracted me to it.

There are all these wonderful moves that

were worked out in the '60s and early '70s that have been forgotten. It was kind of like a deserted structure. That made it attractive. It was never *really* deserted. I have been living in a wing of it ever since.

Y-LIFE: In many cases, you've been removed from that sci-fi structure and placed with other writers like Steve Erickson or William Vollman—literary authors with an eye on the future.

GIBSON: That's always been a kind of agenda. Maybe I wouldn't call it an agenda, but something like that's been going on for me since the start. It's been reassuring. I've always been able to straddle the genre fence, and have the sales and marketing mechanism that you get with genre working for my behalf. The other foot allows me to say I've always been deeply ambivalent.

The thing I love about science fiction is its lack of propriety; somehow, it's the kitsch side of it. I'm of two minds about that. I'm very serious about what I do, but I'm in love with the part that's cheesy. It's not completely respectable. Otherwise in my life, I'm quite middle-class and boring and old. This gives me a little bit of cachet.



All Tomorrow's Parties

A first look at the new novel by William Gibson



ILLIAM GIBSON'S SIXTH novel. All Tomorrow's Parties, picks up where his fifth novel, Idoru, left off: in the near future of our troubled but hopeful planet. Colin Laney, a data savant, fears that the millennial reckoning, which did not occur in 2000, is imminent. He heads from Tokyo back to San Francisco. which he senses will be the site of major disruptions. There, among antique-watch dealers and bridgedwellers, a man named Berry Rydell is dealing with these very public crises in his own personal way.

SUB-ROUTINES

THAT HOLE AT THE CORE OF LANEY'S being, that underlying absence, he begins to suspect, is not so much an absence in the self as of the self.

Something has happened to him since his descent into the cardboard city. He has started to see that previously he had, in some unthinkably literal way, no self.

But what was there, he wonders, before? Sub-routines: maladaptive survival behaviors desperately conspiring to approximate a presence that would be, and never quite be, Laney. And he has never known this before, although he knows that he has always, somehow, been aware of something having been desperately and utterly wrong.

Something tells him this. Something in the core and totality, it seems, of DatAmerica. How can that be?

But now he lies, propped in sleeping bags, in darkness, as if at the earth's core, and beyond cardboard walls are walls of concrete, sheathed in ceramic tile, and beyond them the footing of this country, Japan, with the shudder of the trains a reminder of tectonic forces, the shifting of continent-wide plates.

Somewhere within Laney, something

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FICTION

else is shifting. There is movement, and potential for greater movement still, and he wonders why he is no longer afraid.

And all of this is somehow a gift of the sickness. Not of the cough, the fever, but of that underlying dis-ease that he takes to be the product of the 5–SB he ingested so long ago in the orphanage in Gainesville.

We were all volunteers, he thinks, as he clutches the eyephones and follows his point of view over the edge of a cliff of data, plunging down the wall of this code mesa, its face compounded of fractally differentiated fields of information he has come to suspect of hiding some power or intelligence beyond his comprehension.

Something at once noun and verb.

While Laney, plunging, eyes wide against the pressure of information, knows himself to be merely adjectival: a Laney-colored smear, meaningless without context. A microscopic cog in some catastrophic plan. But positioned, he senses, centrally.

Crucially.

And that is why sleep is no longer an option.

ZODIAC

THEY TAKE SILENGIO, NAKED, THE black man with the long face and the fat white man with the red beard, into a room with wet wooden walls. Leave him. Hot rain falls from holes in the black plastic pipes above. Falls harder, stings.

They have taken his clothes and shoes away in a plastic bag, and now the fat man returns, gives him soap. He knows soap. He remembers the warm rain falling from a pipe in los projectos but this is better, and he is alone in the tall wooden room.

Silencio with his belly full, soaping himself repeatedly, because that is what they want. He rubs the soap into his hair.

He closes his eyes against the burning of the soap and sees the watches arrayed beneath greenish, randomly abraded glass, like fish from some warmer season frozen hard in lake ice. Bright highlights off steel and gold.

He has been colonized by the order uncomprehended: the multifold fact of these potent objects, their endless differentiation, their individual specificities. Infinite variety arising from the expression of dial, hands, numerals, hour markers...He likes the warm rain but he needs desperately to return, to see more, to hear

the words.

He has become the words, what they mean. Breguette hands. Tapestry dial. Bombay lugs. Original stem. Signed.

The rain slows, stops. The fat man, who wears plastic sandals, brings Silencio a thick dry cloth.

The fat man peers at him. "Watches, you say he likes?" the fat man asks the black man. "Yes," the black man says, "he seems to like watches."

The bearded man drapes the towel around Silencio's shoulders.

"Does he know how to tell time?"

"I don't know," says the black man.

"Well," says the fat man, stepping back, "he doesn't know how to use a towel."

Silencio feels confused, ashamed. He looks down.

"Leave him alone, Andy," the black man says. "Get me those clothes I brought."

The black man's name: Fontaine. Like a word in the language of los projectos, a meaning about water. The warm rain in the wooden room.

Now Fontaine leads him through the upper level, where some people call out, selling fruit, past others selling old things spread on blankets, to where a thin dark man stands waiting beside a plastic crate. The crate is upturned, its bottom padded with foam and ragged silver tape, and this

He clutches the eyephones and follows his point of view over the edge of a cliff of data, plunging down

man wears a striped cloth thing with pockets down his front, and in the pockets are scissors, and things like the thing Raton liked to run endlessly through his hair, when he had balanced the black perfectly with the white.

Silencio is wearing the clothes Fontaine has given him: they are large, loose, not his own, but they smell good. Fontaine has given him shoes made of white cloth. Too white. They hurt his eyes.

The soap and the warm rain have made

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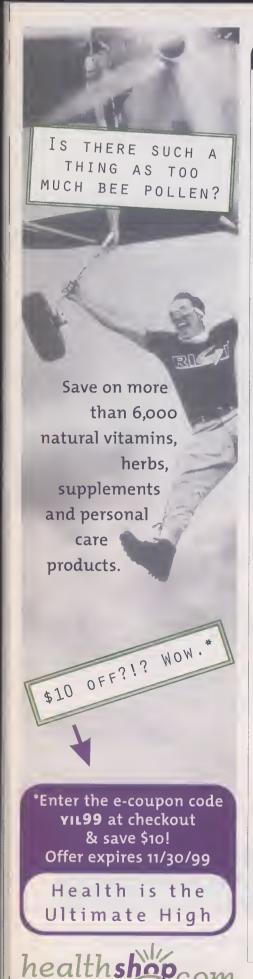
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FICTION

Silencio's hair strange as well, and now Fontaine tells Silencio to sit upon the crate, this man will cut his hair.

Silencio sits, trembling, as the thin dark man flicks at his hair with one of the Ratonthings from his pockets, making small noises behind his teeth.

Silencio looks at Fontaine.

"It's okay," Fontaine says, unwrapping a small sharp stick of wood and inserting it into the corner of his mouth, "you won't feel a thing."

Silencio wonders if the stick is like the black or the white, but Fontaine does not

Behind him, through a broad window, at a different rate of resolution, Rydell could see the skyline of Hong Kong

change. He stands there with the stick in his mouth, watching the thin dark man snip away Silencio's hair with the scissors.

Silencio watches Fontaine, listens to the sound of the scissors, and to the new language in his head.

Zodiac Seawolf. Case very clean. Screwdown crown. Original bezel.

"Zodiac Sea Wolf," Silencio says.

"Man," says the thin dark man, "you deep."

SELWYN TONG

RYDELL HAD A THEORY ABOUT VIRTUAL real estate. The smaller and cheaper the physical site of a given operation, the bigger and the cheesier the website. According to this theory, Selwyn F.X. Tong, notary public of Kowloon, was probably operating out of a rolled-up newspaper.

Rydell couldn't figure out a way to skip the approach segment, which was monolithic, vaguely Egyptian, and reminded him of what his buddy Sublett, a film buff, had called "corridor metaphysics." This was one long-ass corridor, and if it had been physical, you could've driven a very large truck down it. There were baroque sconce lights, virtual scarlet wall-to-wall, and weird tacky texture mapping that tended to gold-flecked marble.

Where had Lanev found this guy?

Eventually Rydell did manage to kill the music, something vaguely classical and swelling, but it seemed to take him three minutes to get to Selwyn F.X. Tong's doors. Which were tall, very tall, and mapped to resemble some generic idea of tropical hardwood.

"Teak my ass," said Rydell.

"Welcome," said a breathless, hyper-feminine voice, "to the offices of Selwyn F.X. Tong, notary public!"

The doors swung open. Rydell figured that if he hadn't killed the music, it would be

peaking about now.

Virtually, the notary's office was about the size of an Olympic pool but scarce on detail. Rydell used the rocker-pad on his glasses to scoot his POV right up to the desk, which was about the size of a pool table, and mapped in that same rampeddown wood look. There were a couple of nondescript, metallic-looking objects on it and a few pieces of virtual paper.

"What's the 'F.X.' stand for?" Rydell asked.
"Francis Xavier," said Tong, who presented
s a sort of deadpan cartoon of a small Chi-

as a sort of deadpan cartoon of a small Chinese man in a white shirt, black tie, black suit. His black hair and the black suit were mapped in the same texture, a weird effect and one Rydell took to be unintentional.

"I thought you might be in video," Rydell said, "like it's a nickname: FX, 'effects', right?"

"I am Catholic," Tong said, his tone neutral.

"No offense," Rydell said.

"None taken," said Tong, his plastic-looking face as shiny as his plastic-looking eyes.

You always forgot, Rydell reflected, just how bad this stuff could look if it hadn't been handled right.

"What can I do for you, Mr. Rydell?"

"Laney didn't tell you?"

"Laney?"

"Colin," Rydell said. "Space. Laney."

"And...?"

"Six," Rydell said. "Zero. Four. Two." Tong's plastic-looking eyes narrowed.

"Berry."

Tong pursed his lips. Behind him, through a broad window, at a different rate of resolution, Rydell could see the skyline of Hong Kong.

"Berry," Rydell repeated.

"Thank you, Mr. Rydell," the notary said.
"My client has authorized me to give you this seven-digit identification number." A gold fountain pen appeared in Tong's right hand, like a continuity error in a student

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www.guess.com

FICTION

film. It was a very large pen, elaborately mapped with swirling dragons, their scales in higher resolution than anything else in the site. Probably a gift, Rydell decided. Tong wrote the seven digits on one of the sheets of virtual paper, then reversed it on the desktop so that Rydell could read it. The pen had vanished, as unnaturally as it had appeared. "Please don't repeat this number aloud," Tong said.

"Why not?"

"Issues of encryption," Tong said obscurely. "You have as long as you like to memorize the number."

Rydell looked at the seven digits and began to work out a mnemonic. He finally arrived at one based on his birthday, the number of states when he was born, his father's age when he'd died, and a mental image of two cans of 7-Up. When he was certain that he'd be able to recall the number, he looked up at Tong. "Where do I go to get the credit chip?"

"Any automated teller. You have photo identification?"

"Yes," Rvdell said.

"Then we are finished."

"One thing," Rydell said.

"What is that?"

"Tell me how I get out of here without having to go back down that corridor of yours. I just want a straight exit, right?"

Tong regarded him blandly. "Click on my face."

Rydell did, using the rocker-pad to summon a cursor shaped like a neon green cartoon hand, pointing. "Thanks," he said, as Tong's office folded.

He was in the corridor, facing back the way he had come.

"Damn," Rydell said.

The music began. He worked the rockerpad, trying to remember how he'd killed it before. He wanted to get a GPS fix on the nearest ATM, though, so he didn't unplug the glasses.

He clicked for the end of the corridor.

The click seemed to trigger a metastatic surge of bit rot, every bland texture map rewritten in some weirder hand: the red carpet went gray-green, its nap grown strange and unevenly furry, like something at the bottom of a month-old cup of coffee, while the walls went from whorehouse marble to a moist fish-belly pallor, the sconce lights glowing dim as drowned corpse candles. Tong's fake-classical theme cracked and hollowed, weird bass notes

rumbling in just above the threshold of the subsonic.

It all took about a second to happen, and it took Rydell maybe another second to get the idea that someone wanted his undivided attention.

"Rydell." It was one of those voices that they fake up from found audio: speech cobbled from wind down skyscraper canyons, the creaking of Great Lakes ice, tree frogs clanging in the Southern night. Rydell had heard them before. They grated on the nerves, as they were meant to, and conveniently disguised the voice of the speaker. Assuming the speaker had a voice in the first place.

"Hey," Rydell said, "I was just trying to click out."

A virtual screen appeared in front of him, a round-cornered rectangle whose dimensions were meant to invoke the cultural paradigm of twentieth-century video screens. On it, an oddly angled, monochromatic view of some shadowy space, dimly lit from above. Nothing there. Impression of decay, great age.

"I have important information for you." The vowel in *you* suggested a siren dopplering past, then gone.

"Well," said Rydell, "if your middle name is 'F.X.,' you're sure going to some trouble."

There was a pause, Rydell staring at the dead, blank space depicted or recorded on the screen. He was waiting for something to move there; probably that was the point of it, that nothing did.

"You'd better take this information very seriously, Mr. Rydell."

"I'm serious as cancer," Rydellsaid. "Shoot."

"Use the ATM at the Lucky Dragon, near
the entrance to the bridge. Then present
your identification at the GlobEx franchise
at the rear of the store."

"Whv?"

"They're holding something for you."

"Tong," Rydell said, "is that you?"

But there was no answer. The screen vanished, and the corridor was as it had been.

Rydell reached up and disconnected the rented cable from the Brazilian glasses.

Blinked.

A coffee place near Union Square, the kind that had potted plants and hotdesks. An early office crowd was starting to line up for sandwiches.

He got up, folded the glasses, tucked them into the inside pocket of his jacket, and picked up his bag.





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Casual for weekends. Formal for evenings. Lingerie for late nights. All with a single click. Top model **Estella Warren** shows you how to get dressed—or dress your gal—with the Net By Elyssa Yoon-Jung Lee

The online apparel industry used under the elegant evening gowns, sensual lingerie, or even not so minuscule anymore. With \$530 million in rev- Z lowing pages are available through your PC. enue in 1998, and growth predictions that are nothing short of staggering—the technology consulting firm

After you've checked out Warren's ready-to-wear, see what else in Net fashion suits you. Among the hub sites up. And it certainly has someplace to go.

novelty items. Respected fashion designers and retailers have started to move their wares online, from Abercrombie & Fitch to Ermenegildo Zegna, from Gap casual wear to Jean Paul Gaultier couture. Using nothing but from hat to heel in high style.

To give you the full picture, we retained the services of 👝 cations—right down to the type of collar and cut. Estella Warren, the new face of Chanel No. 5 and—thanks to her downloadable 2000 calendar at FASHIONWINDOW— o and with more and more retailers migrating onto the Web, a rising Net star in her own right. The sexy 20-year-old \pm are you sure you still want to spend your lunch hour wait-Canadian knows how to get the most out of her wardrobe, on ing in line for a dressing room and a cashier?

to be small—thong-size, you might say. Well, wake up and "men's dress pants. And she also knows how to get the walk into the ever-expanding virtual closet, because it's < most out of the Net: All of the items she wears on the fol-

Forrester Research predicts that it will be a \$20 billion 🗾 are the newly launched FashionWindow, which features business by 2003—the Net clothing industry is all dressed \triangleleft online shops for Bisou, Bisou, J. Crew, and more; and **STYLECLICK.COM**, where you can peruse brands like Diesel With just a mouse and a minute, you can save both time 🤼 and Patagonia. Some designers, including Nicole Miller and money by shopping for clothes online, and the gar- \searrow and Kenneth Cole, sell online through specialty stores. ments in question are no longer only geeky T-shirts and m And if online shopping taxes your imagination, visit LANDS' END and check out the Personal Model feature, which lets women customize a virtual manneguin to their body build, face shape, and color, and then outfits them in the online dressing room. For guys, Lands' End also the Internet, you can now leave your house decked out 🚡 offers the Oxford Express page, where visitors can pick out that one-in-10,000 perfect shirt, tailored to their specifi-

With eye-popping technological advances like these,











under-Walen

The secret (Victoria's and others) is out—the best places to **buy lingerie** aren't at the local mall. They're **on your PC** By Elyssa Yoon-Jung Lee and Pamela Des Barres

We know, guys, we know. You don't have to convince us that you had your best girl's interest at heart when you, along with 1.5 million other viewers, logged on to see Victoria's Secret's record-breaking Webcast fashion show last February. After all, how else could you do your research for your Valentine's Day shopping? (No one is stupid enough to buy his girlfriend lingerie without first seeing a professional model wearing it.) Judging by the impressive numbers—visits to the Victoria's Secret site have more than doubled since the fashion show, and originate from 120 countries—your thoughtful intentions to please actually paid off. And the intimate-apparel giant also happily reports that 25 percent of its Web customers have been male, whereas men account for a mere 10 percent of its off-line buyers.

Online, lingerie is a booming business. Consider the sheer number of sites devoted to the sheer garments: old reliables like **www.hanes.com** and **maidenform**, such upscale labels as **hango of switzerland** and **La Perla** (the latter comes com-

plete with a quote from Nobel laureate and lingerie philosopher Hermann Hesse), and such Web-only stores as **LINGERIE.COM** and **LINGERIE WORLD**. Where are the best places to shop for sexy lingerie on the Web, whether you're a man buying for his wife or girlfriend, or a woman trying to give her boyfriend or husband a hint? Here's a guide to help make lingerie shopping a snap:

VICTORIA'S SECRET trumpets "the world's top supermodels...the world's most glamorous lingerie," and the site makes good on that slogan, in that order. There is quite an alluring array of seductive garments here, but supermodels are Victoria's Secret's calling card.

Enter the Glam Lounge and meet supermodel Daniela Pestova as she straps on a pair of huge feathery wings to enhance her lacy white Earth Angel attire. The "sheer and sexy camisole lit by glittering sequins" is a standout at \$49, and the \$79 fly-away champagne lace gown will make you want to twirl around on the beach a few times.

Women may find the models a tad too >> 142

IS CAMISULE (\$240) AND PANTY (\$89) BY FUGAL. AVAILABLE AT WWW.FUGAL.COM

A Quick Guide to the Net's Best Fashion Sites and Shops

HURS/DEPARTMENT STORES

BLOOMINGDALE'S

[www.bloomingdales.com] The Bloomie's catalog moved online.

BLUEFLY

[www.bluefly.com] The outlet store you don't have to go out for.

POO

[www.boo.com] The much-ballyhooed site for funky athletic apparel.

DELIAS.COM

[www.delias.com] Grrrl power, URL-style, lights up this site for Gen-Y'ers, with discounts on teenwear

FASHIONWINDOW

[www.fashionwindow.com] Through its Shops at FW page, you can open up multiple online stores.

GIRLSHOP: GUYSHOP

[www.girlshop.com]; [www.guyshop.com] Access to some of the most charming downtown NYC boutiques.

IBEAUTY.COM

[www.ibeauty.com/fragrances] Fragrances for men and women, with free gift-wrapping and shipping.

MACY'S

[www.macys.com] New York's venerable department store has search tools that save you from drowning in this retail ocean.

MODDSTDOM

[www.nordstrom.com] Nordstrom is making up for its late entry into the e-game by setting up Nordstromshoes.com for the holidays.

SHOPPING THE WORLD

[www.shoppingtheworld.com] Create your own fitting room, then send the key, and a hint, to someone special!

STYLECLICK.COM

[www.styleclick.com] Mostly for accessories, but you can still find trendy basics like Diesel.

THE WASTELAND

[www.thewasteland.com] The much-touted online branch of the much-touted California vintage chain.



AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS

[www.ae.com]

See it on Dawson's Creek (AE is the official clothier of the hit series's fall season), buy it minutes later online.

BANANA REPUBLIC

[www.bananarepublic.com] High-casual fashions for men and

FROM GUESS.COM: Sweater (\$148) and leopard handbag (\$48).

JHANE BARNES [www.ihanebarnes.com] The designer's online catalog for her menswear, carpets, and furniture.

BISOU BISOU

[www.bisou-bisou.com] Everything for the clubgoing girl hipster with a figure to be fitted.

KENNETH COLE

[www.kencole.com] Shoes, bags, and bargains-25 percent off all online merchandise.

JOHN FLUEVOG SHOES

[www.fluevog.com] For sole searchers, this site is as inventive as the designer's shoes.

FOGAL

[www.fogal.com] The Swiss hosiery giant's online catalog and store.

GAP

[www.gap.com] Fully operational online store.

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER

[www.galeriegaultier.com] A visual feast with the feel of Gaultier's Paris boutique.

[www.jcrew.com] Sale items up for grabs every Friday at noon, some at almost 50 percent off.

NORMA KAMALI

[www.omo-norma-kamali.com] Coolly minimalist, with some perks, like the Kamali personal shopper.

LANDS' END

[www.landsend.com] Online home of the venerable catalog retailer is all about customization.

L.L. BEAN

[www.llbean.com] Easy on the eyes: clear pictures, with colors that shine.

STEVE MADDEN

[www.stevemadden.com] Hip, neon-color site offering affordable mile-high platforms and sneakers.



NICOLE MILLER

[www.nicolemiller.com] Miller's renowned bridal selection is now just a smooth click away.

NINE WEST

[www.ninewest.com] Bonus: You can view a list of every Nine West shoe on a single page.

TODD OLDHAM

[www.toddoldham.com] Visually playful site. Soon, duds online from the eclectic downtown designer.

WATCH WORLD INT'L

[www.watchworld.com] The name speaks for itself.

WORTH & WORTH

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Primetime. Anytime."



UNDERCOVER ANGEL: Victoria's Secret's February Webcast helped online fashion earn its wings.

<< 139 dewy-eyed, but teenage boys (and adult men who are still in touch with their inner teenage boy) may wonder why anybody would shop anywhere else.</p>

FREDERICK'S OF HOLLYWOOD, the original purveyor of 5-inch spike heels and provocative undergarments, features surprisingly wholesome models, their honeyed locks blowing every which way as they pout in their naughty teddies. Frederick's began as a small intimate-apparel mail-order company and retail shop in 1946, and claims to have invented the world's first push-up bra back in 1947 (the Rising Star, for those of you hoping for the Bra Nicknames category on *Jeopardy!*).

The choices are abundant, and the prices are right: An adorable Daisy Babydoll will set you back a mere \$32, and the best-selling Frederick's bosom-hoister, the "revolutionary all-around underwiring plus deep plunge 'Hollywood Kiss Bra,'" costs only \$28.

PLAYMATES: A HOLLYWOOD TRADITION, the closest competitor of Frederick's, posts fair warning on its site's splash page:

"Inside this site there are many sexy pictures of women....By clicking on the above picture and entering the site you are legally declaring yourself a responsible adult."

The history of Playmates (which is by far the most libidinous of major lingerie sites mentioned) is a bit unusual. Opened as a children's clothing store in '51, the company changed direction along the way under the able hands of the original owner, his son, and his grandson.

The Playmates' multiethnic models flaunt a come-hither attitude and then some, with lots of bondage apparel, black vinyl, and long, teasing zippers.

Playmates knows how to make seduction affordable: A peek-a-boo leopard set with holes and a matching G-string will set you back only \$28. Of course, very little fabric is used.

TRASHY LINGERIE is tons of trashy fun. Specializing in "copy garments," replicas of lingerie originally designed for Hollywood's most daring dolls—Madonna, Cher, Janet Jackson, and even little Miss

Drew Barrymore—the site sends you shopping with *Playboy*'s 1999 Playmate of the Year, Heather Kozar, who strikes a Marilynesque pose in the \$40 Jackie Lace Bra.

There's a Bridal Collection full of naughty

niceties "guaranteed to keep you and your sweetie locked in your room for days!" The Executive Lingerie promises to make you feel "ready to conquer the financial world" (for high-finance prices, no less; the Deep V Starlet Corset runs

THE Y-LIFE FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA CONTINUES ONLINE! WHO INVENTED THE MINISKIRT? HOW OLD IS LAETITIA CASTA? WHO IS THE DESIGNER FOR GUCC!? IF YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS, YOU COULD WIN A \$1,500 ONLINE SHOPPING SPREE VISIT YIL.COM/FASHION TO ENTER.

\$150). The Trailer Trash category is the coolest. Also fun is the Shop with a Model category, which actress Kay Lenzhosts. Her slogan? "She's not a trashy girl—she's a trashy woman. Go shopping with Kay to see that beauty comes with age!" Think about that while you're slipping on the Sweet Chemise.

ELYSSA LEE is a staff reporter at Money magazine. **PAMELA DES BARRES** wrote "I'm With the Bandwidth" for our August '99 issue.

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COLOR SCHEME: iMacs (left); Handspring Visors (below), and the Epson 740i (right).

"lifestyle choices," and "unique fashion statement." These days, computers are no longer simply anonymous-looking vessels for spreadsheets and processed words. Instead, they are status symbols, conversation starters, design projects, and sometimes even living-room centerpieces.

Has Martha Stewart taken the computer world hostage? No, it's just that Apple's 1998 comeback kid, the iMac, sparked a no-holdsbarred revolution in computer design.

Engineered by former bathtub designer
Jonathan Ive, the iMac—with its
bulbous body and translucent, Bondiblue shell—captured the imagination of
industrial designers and the pocketbooks of fashion-conscious consumers everywhere. To date, Apple
has sold about 2 million iMacs in candy-inspired colors,
including strawberry, tangerine, blueberry, grape, and lime.

No wonder, then, that industrial designers are scurrying to produce computers as sleek and chic as the iMac. Take eMachines' eOne, for example, an obvious iMac homage, or Handspring's Visor, a Palm-size computer that offers consumers a rainbow of faceplate options. This May, Epson America released the Stylus Color 740i ink-jet printer, which you can outfit with blueberry, lime, tangerine, grape, or strawberry printer covers. And in September, Apple itself went back to the fashion well to create the iBook, a curvaceous consumer portable available in tangerine and blueberry.

Among those products poised to become worthy successors to the iMac and iBook are the Packard Bell NEC Z1 and Gateway's Profile XL. Weighing in at 23.5 pounds, the space-age, all-in-one NEC Z1 boasts a removable 15-inch LCD panel with integrated speakers, a curved base, and—no doubt for those who still believe that yogurt, not computer shells, should come in strawberry—a steelgray exterior. As for Gateway's sleek and slender Profile XL (also an all-in-one unit), it features a space-saving depth of only 7 inches, and it looks as crisp as a freshly cleaned suit.

Ajay Gupta, director of emerging products in project management and planning at Gateway, guided the company's design team in the development of the Profile XL. "Computers have gone from hiding in a small room to being everywhere," he says. "They are a part of people's lifestyle and who they are, rather than just this gray box that sits in the corner."

Though designers might be loath to admit it, the fashion explosion has gotten a big assist from advances in computer hardware: Smaller circuitry and display technology have helped make bulky monitors and unsightly hard disks a thing of the past. "Technological limitations are rapidly decreasing," says Jim Hollingsworth, senior vice president of

marketing at Packard Bell NEC. "This miniaturization of componentry gives us much more freedom and flexibility with our computer design efforts, and increases our ability to pump up the 'cool quotient' in all of our PC offerings."

And then, of course, there's the desperate struggle on the part of manufacturers and industrial designers to separate themselves from the PC pack. Consider, for example, the Upper Montclair, New Jersey-based Insync Design. Recently, Intel commissioned the industrial-design firm to create the Flex, a computer prototype for Intel's February 1999 Developer's Forum. But Intel explicitly told team members to avoid beige and all candy colors. The result: CEO-style charcoal gray.

"In the Flex computer, we elected not to go the Apple route, with the translucent materials, but with something that we thought was a little bit more innovative," says Steve Miggels, one of the founders of Insync. "The translucent look is being used now in so many products, it's almost overdone."

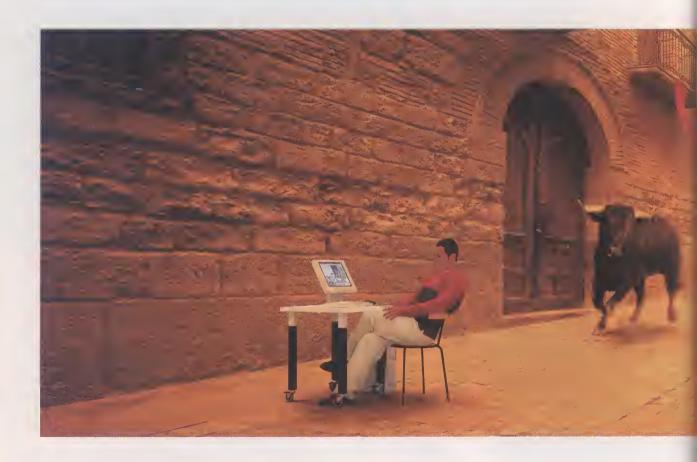
In fact, critics are predicting that the designer-computer look, at least in some aspects, will go from pretty fabulous to passing fad in record time. Some suggest that manufacturers and consumers will begin to bridle at the increasingly toylike appearance of their hightech machines. Others foresee computer companies using funky colors to launch gender-specific product lines. How many old-boy CEOs, for instance, would be caught dead carrying a salmon-hued laptop into the boardroom?

What's next? PCs with faux-fur shells, diamond-studded laptops, and leather-coated keyboards? All within the realm of possibility. In the meantime, however, you might want to consider doing away with that big beige box. It just doesn't hold the room together.

CINDY WAXER wrote about Sarah McLachlan in the August '99 issue of Yahoo! Internet Life.

FOR SITES IN THIS STORY, PLEASE TURN TO THIS MONTH'S SITE ADDRESS GUIDE, OR VISIT WWW.YIL.COM/URL/9911/DESIGN.HTML

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THE 10 MOST NET-FRIENDLY

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (& the 5 Least Friendly)

Does Congress get the Net? Find cyberheroes and cybervillains

out in our annual look at Capitol Hill's

By Declan McCullagh and the Y-Life staff

ow that the country has decided it can't live without the Internet,

Congress has decided that it can't live without trying to control the Internet. That was the lesson of last year's legislative sessions—senators and representatives

who had previously ignored

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Whether it's the 2Ist Amendment
Enforcement Act (prohibiting the sale of alcohol directly in violation of state liquor laws—and thus stifling the sale of liquor online) or the steady stream of e-commerce tax-



But although many legislators still don't understand the potential of the Internet, a strong core of Internet allies in Congress is trying to show others the light. As a political issue, it cuts across party lines. *Y-Life's* top two most Net-friendly members of Congress are Spencer Abraham, a Republican from Michigan, and Patrick Leahy, a liberal Democrat from Vermont. Despite Repub-

licans' social conservatism, they have a slight edge over Democrats because of their creed of less taxation and government interference. And, of course, legislators from states with heavy tech industries—such as California and Washington—tend to be more friendly.

With a pivotal election year looming, no doubt many politicians will tout themselves as defenders of the online faith. And just as many will blame the Internet for corrupting society. Who are the Internet's true allies on Capitol Hill? Read on.

Most Net-Friendly

Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-MI)



Abraham has a thing for consumers. He sponsored legislation that would let consumers open brokerage accounts without complicated paperwork. He introduced into the Senate the Anti-Cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, which safeguards domain names from

unscrupulous profiteers. And this year he received a Business Software Alliance Cyber Champion Award. His sponsorship of electronic-signature legislation, along with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), raised some eyebrows, though. It's clear that the Internet needs some electronic-signature standard, but it's not necessarily in the public's interest to have that standard federally mandated. Still, Abraham is a legislator who is unusually attuned to the Net. Being picked by American University as having the best Senate Web site certainly doesn't hurt.

2 Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)



The Vermont liberal who topped our list last year, Leahy has supported limits on police wiretaps and initially opposed California Senator Dianne Feinstein's bomb-info ban. He's also generally known as one of the Senate's staunchest defenders of free speech. "The most

Net-friendly member of the Senate—and I would say the Congress—remains Pat Leahy," says Barry Steinhardt, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union. But Leahy isn't without his detractors. In 1996, he authored now-infamous legislation that forced phone companies to rewire their networks for easier police surveillance. Experts such as David Banisar, coauthor of *The Electronic Privacy Papers*, say that decision is enough to make Leahy a lifelong enemy of libertarians.

3 Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT)



Burns is an unlikely Internet aficionado. A self-described cowboy more comfortable around steers than mice, he has nevertheless been talking tech for a while now. Since 1996, Burns has been trying to roll back the encryption export rules that industry loathes. Then, along with

Democrat Ron Wyden of Oregon, he spoke out against a White House plan to monitor the Internet for suspicious activities: "This administration has no respect for privacy. I find that very disturbing." Earlier this year, Burns took on the Federal Communications Commission, complaining that outdated regulations have hindered the growth of high-speed data connections. "I see a lot of glass [fiber] going into the ground," he said. "But I don't see it getting to the houses." All in all, Burns is a tireless protector of the Net and an eloquent critic of those who would restrict it needlessly.

4 Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)



Cochair of the Congressional Internet Caucus, Goodlatte has been active on the online front. With his cochair, Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA), he wrote a bipartisan "Disconnected Dozen," a list of 12 states most likely to be left behind as the Information Age advances, and

sponsored legislation that would ease restrictions on data transmission, thereby increasing consumer choice. He coauthored, with Christopher Cox (R-CA), an amendment to Senator Orrin Hatch's 21st Amendment Enforcement Act, which tried to restrict online liquor sales. The amendment denied states the right to impose new or discriminatory taxes on Internet liquor sales. Goodlatte has urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish a system that would allow farmers to communicate with the USDA online.

Coming Down off the Hill

RICK WHITE GETS THE NET. BUT HE'S NOT IN CONGRESS ANYMORE

ast year, any list of Net-friendly national legislators should have included Representative Rick White of Washington. And all of them did, from the inaugural Yahoo! Internet Life survey to the Tech Law Journal study (which listed White first in the House) to American University's comprehensive study of congressional Web pages. White cofounded the Congressional Internet Caucus, spoke passionately about the First Amendment in cyberspace, and led the fight against Net taxation. But no more. White, 45, left the House when he lost the election to Democrat Jay Inslee, and says he has no desire to seek office again.

But White hasn't straved too far from his roots. These days. he is a partner at Perkins Coie LLC, one of Washington state's most influential law firms, and his practice focuses on such high-tech clients as Amazon.com and Dell. White spoke with us about his time in office, and about how the current Congress is adjusting to the Net.

Y-LIFE: Does the Congress, as a whole, understand the Net and

WHITE: I think the answer is no. I don't think they understand the details of it. I think it's hard for them to really see the full potential of it. But that's not a problem that's limited to technology. That's a problem that's endemic to Congress in general. What people don't understand about Congress is that they are the ultimate big-picture people, and if a problem has to be solved by Congress, you always get rough judgments. You never get as good a solution as you'd get if the people who knew something about itpeople in the industry or otherwise directly involved—could solve it on their own

If Internet policy gets made by Congress, that's fine, but you're going to get a less elegant, less useful policy than you'd get if we could work it out a little differently.

Y-LIFE: What were the biggest hurdles you had to overcome while in the House?

WHITE: D.C. is a very politically oriented place, and most of the decisions back there get made on political grounds. So to try to get people to focus on what's good for the Internet and on technology and on the future is a really difficult thing to do. And you always end up with a little bit of a mixture. Some people have

> a glimmer of what the future can be, but it usually is overwhelmed by the politics of the moment.

> > Y-LIFE: Do you see that changing anytime in the future?

WHITE: No, not really. I do think that Congress knows more about the Internet than it used to, and I actually think that in some ways this is a great opportunity for the Internet community. At the moment, both parties are bending over backward to try to do something for the Internet community, and would love to be seen as the high-tech party. So we're at a funny moment where the politics in D.C.

are driving these people to do something for the Internet.

The problem is that there's no unified Internet community, and as a result, no clear message for Congress about what it ought to do. We're at a time right now when if the Internet community could really unite and stop fighting with each other to get a little competitive advantage, they could probably get anything they wanted out of Congress.

'The problem is that there's no unified Internet community. and as a result. no clear message for **Congress about** what it ought to do'

Y-LIFE: What are the

biggest issues facing the Net in the next two years?

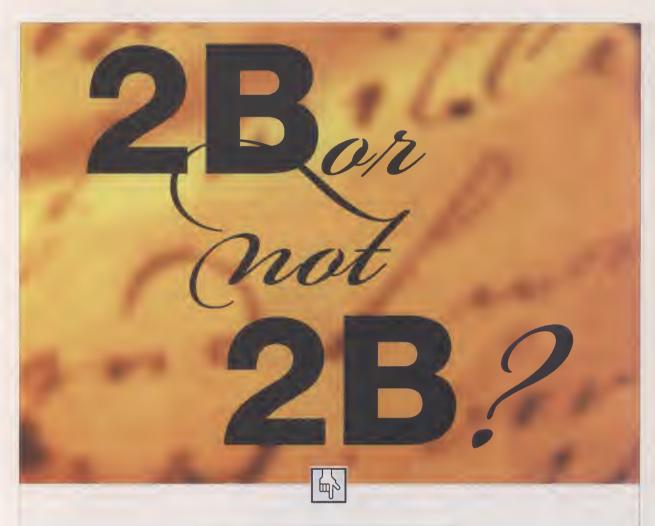
WHITE: I think there are several that are huge issues. I would say that privacy's certainly No. I. particularly from an e-commerce standpoint. I have all these little clients who have invented great technologies that they think are just wonderful—technologies that help them know more about their customers so they can serve their customers better. Well, that's great, and they're all very excited about it, but I can tell you that Ed Markey [a Massachusetts representative who has sponsored a financial-privacy bill isn't too thrilled. I kind of feel that privacy policy, and the business plans of all these e-commerce companies, are on a collision course. I would say that consumer protection is the next huge issue from an e-commerce standpoint: What does it mean to treat customers fairly, when you're doing business on the Internet?

And, I think, encryption. The encryption debate has gone on for so long, if we don't solve it soon, we're really going to miss the boat. You're seeing some great encryption now being developed in Europe, better than it was a year ago. And I think we need to get this thing resolved within the next year or two.

Y-LIFE: What are the consequences if we don't?

WHITE: It's easy to exaggerate the consequences. The whole software and technology world is changing a bit. So I don't know for sure if it means that Windows is no longer dominant if they don't have decent protection worldwide. I think it makes it a bit more difficult for U.S. software producers to compete elsewhere, but I don't see necessarily a threat to Windows. What I do see is encryption developed outside the U.S. possibly becoming the worldwide standard.

It would be terrible for us to let that happen. Not only from a commercial standpoint—we dominate in every other part of the Internet; we ought to dominate that one, too-but from a national-security standpoint. It would be much better if the encryption that becomes the standard worldwide was developed in the United States, because our experts will at least be able to help the National Security Agency deal with that if they have to. If it was developed in Russia or Finland, that wouldn't be nearly as good. -BILGE EBIRI





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5 Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)



Wyden became something of a hero last year when he helped win enactment of the Internet Tax Freedom Act, working to convince such senators as Bob Graham (D-FL) that the law would not hurt off-line businesses. But Wyden hasn't stopped there. He and Conrad Burns cowrote the

Online Privacy Protection Act of 1999, which seeks to give consumers greater control over the data that e-commerce sites and e-merchants collect, and he worked with Spencer Abraham and John McCain on electronic-signature legislation. Finally, he teamed with McCain on legislation to limit frivolous Y2K-related lawsuits.

6 Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)



HI-B visas may seem like an arcane issue, but Lofgren lately has been talking about little else. Why? Silicon Valley firms in her congressional district point to a shortage of skilled workers, and they desperately want immigration quotas increased. Lofgren's bill, dubbed the "Brain Act." would do just

that. Lofgren says her plan for a new visa category will allow business executives "to focus on excellence instead of arguing about shortage." Opposition comes mainly from Lamar Smith (R-TX) and trade unions. In August the AFL-CIO testified before Smith's subcommittee that it was "premature to even consider another increase."

7 Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA)



If the Net had its version of the Boston Tea Party, Cox probably would lead it. Cox has been instrumental in trying to keep the Net tax-free. He even helped make Orrin Hatch's restriction of online liquor sales a bit less destructive by coauthoring an amendment denying states the right to impose

new or discriminatory taxes on Internet liquor sales. His Net stock dropped a bit, though, when the Chinese government rebutted the claims in his committee's report on Chinese nuclear espionage by showing that the information could be downloaded off the Net.

8 Rep. Dick Armey (R-TX)



Whether you admire Armey's unflinching conservatismor you've decided he belongs back in the Jurassic era, one thing is clear: He's devoted to protecting the Net and maintaining its unregulated status. Author of the GOP's laissez-faire "e-Contract," Armey delights in highlighting the mis-

deeds of errant bureaucrats. Remember when a U.N. agency proposed an e-mail tax to benefit developing nations? Armey panned the plan. And when details of a White House-backed Internet monitoring plan became public, Armey took careful aim. "What we really need," he said, "is protection from government Peeping Toms."

9 Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)



It's not surprising that Eshoo, a winner of the Business Software Alliance's Cyber Champion Award, has remained active in cyberissues. After all, her district includes Silicon Valley. Still, her unflinching involvement with Internet-related issues is admirable. Eshoo, along with state-mate

Zoe Lofgren, led the House's high-tech advisory group and supported legislation to soften but not eliminate encryption controls. She has been a leading advocate of the "E-rate" initiative, the part of the president's proposed Universal Service program that would provide discounts on Internet technologies to schools and libraries.

10 Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)



After McCain introduced legislation that would permanently ban an Internet tax and authored anti-cybersquatting and electronic signature bills, you'd think he would be an online advocate's dream senator. Not so fast, though. Critics say he scapegoats the Net for society's ills. At a

speech before the Los Angeles Anti-Defamation League, he targeted the Net as a breeding ground for hatemongers. He also has sponsored some middle-of-the-road filter legislation. Are his presidential ambitions interfering with his Net stance?

Least Net-Friendly

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)



Feinstein arguably has done more than any other senator to censor and regulate the Net. She repeatedly has attempted to ban bomb-making information, even though courts have ruled it's legal to publish it. She tried to make it a crime to discuss marijuana-growing online—or to link to

drug-related Web sites. And she has suggested banning encryption software that federal law-enforcement officials can't monitor. It's not that anyone is *for* bomb-making or drug links, but that Feinstein's ham-fisted approach would be overly tar-reaching.

Rep. Porter Goss (R-FL)



If anyone in Washington qualifies as an intractable foe of Internet privacy, it's Goss. The irascible Republican is trying to weaken cryptographic products with back doors for government surveillance. This summer Goss asked Congress to give companies a 15 percent

tax break for developing snoopable code. He's also been a staunch opponent of U.S. firms shipping encryption products overseas. Goss heads the House Intelligence Committee, which has groups like the ACLU watching him closely.

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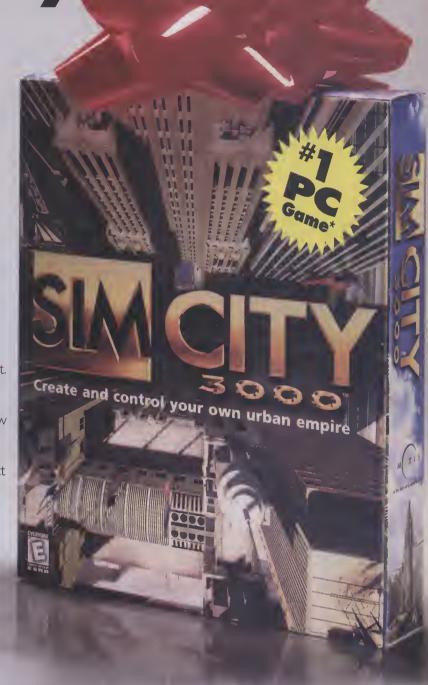
"Sim-sational"

— PC Magazine

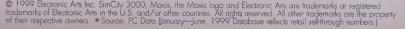
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"If Dot Elected, I Dot Promise to Dot..."

THE REST IN CONGRESSIONAL WER SITES

hich legislators show the most talent for using the Web? Armed with a grant from the Washington law firm of Bonner & Associates, American University researchers spent a month in the spring evaluating almost 500 House and Senate individual member Web sites. The sites were rated in five areas: content, constituent service, visual appeal, user-friendliness, and use of technology. Here are the top IOs [www.american.edu/academic.depts/spa/ccps/netgain.html]: 3. BRIAN BILBRAY (R-CA) [www.house.gov/bilbrav]

4. VIC SNYDER (D-AR) [www.house.gov/snyder]

5. KAY GRANGER (R-TX) [www.house.gov/granger]

6. JOSÉ SERRANO (D-NY) [www.house.gov/serrano] 7. JAY DICKEY (R-AR) [www.house.gov/dickev]

8. MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE) [www.house.gov/castle]

9. LANE EVANS (D-IL) [www.house.gov/evans]

IO. VERNON EHLERS (R-MI) [www.house.gov/ehlers]

SENATE

I. SPENCER ABRAHAM (R-MI) [www.senate.gov/~abraham]

2. ORRIN HATCH (R-UT) [www.senate.gov/~hatch]

3. BARBARA BOXER (D-CA) [www.senate.gov/~boxer]

4. BILL FRIST (R-TN) [www.senate.gov/~frist]

5. HARRY REID (D-NV) [www.senate.gov/~reid]

6. FRED THOMPSON (R-TN) [www.senate.gov/~thompson] 7. JOSEPH LIEBERMAN (D-CT) [www.senate.gov/~lieberman]

8. ROD GRAMS (R-MN) [www.senate.gov/~grams]

9. JIM JEFFORDS (R-VT) [www.senate.gov/~ieffords]

IO CHARLES BORR (D-VA) [www.senate.gov/~robb]

I. BOB BARR (R-GA) [www.house.gov/barr]

2. EARL BLUMENAUER (D-OR) [www.house.gov/blumenauer]



FEMA Responds to Vegas Floods Lake Tahpe Preservation Workshop Reid Proposes Anti-Air Rage Bill HOT News Meet the Seinter The Patients Read the latest news about the Patients' Bill All About Newada HARRY REID (D-NV)

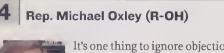
Rep. Bill McCollum (R-FL)



McCollum is big on FBI surveillance plans. In July he led opposition in the House to a plan by Representative Ron Paul (R-TX) to protect financial privacy. "It guts existing money-laundering laws [and] sets the drug war back 20 years," McCollum complained during the floor debate. He also has backed

the FBI's efforts to expand its wiretapping powers and agency attempts to restrict data-scrambling encryption products. Critics have coined an unflattering moniker—"Police State McCollum," online activist Matt Gaylor says—and plan to highlight his technology voting record if he enters Florida's Senate race next year.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)





It's one thing to ignore objections from meddlesome civil libertarians regarding your anti-pornography law. It's quite another to ignore the Supreme Court's ruling that the attempt to restrict online smut violates the First Amendment. But Oxley is nothing if not determined. Nowadays he's busy

standing up for the Child Online Protection Act, which—like its predecessor, the Communications Decency Act—has been declared unconstitutional. In February, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that COPA, which makes it a federal crime to post materials "harmful to minors" online, not only went too far but also endangered the freedoms children eventually will inherit. Unfazed, Oxley and four other Republicans have appealed the decision.

Last year, Hatch managed to make both our lists of Net-Friendly and Net-Unfriendly legislators. This year he has crept closer to the Dark Side. Sure, American University named his Web site one of the best, but Net-savvy doesn't always mean Net-friendly. Hatch's introduction of legis-

lation limiting online wine sales struck a blow against e-commerce as well as small wineries, to the glee of the big wholesalers. He also supported Dianne Feinstein's well-intentioned but misguided anti-bomb-making crusade (see above). As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has been tackling the issue of deregulating broadband communications, he may yet redeem himself by increasing consumer choices for high-bandwidth access.

DECLAN Mccullagh, who writes frequently about technology and politics, is the chief Washington correspondent for Wired News.

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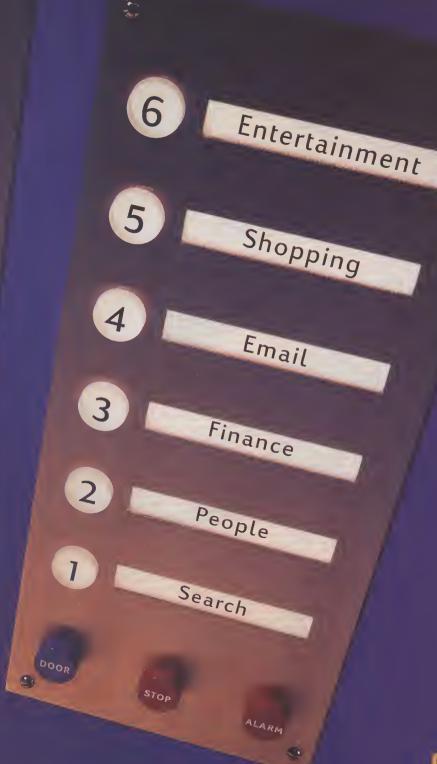
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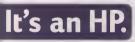


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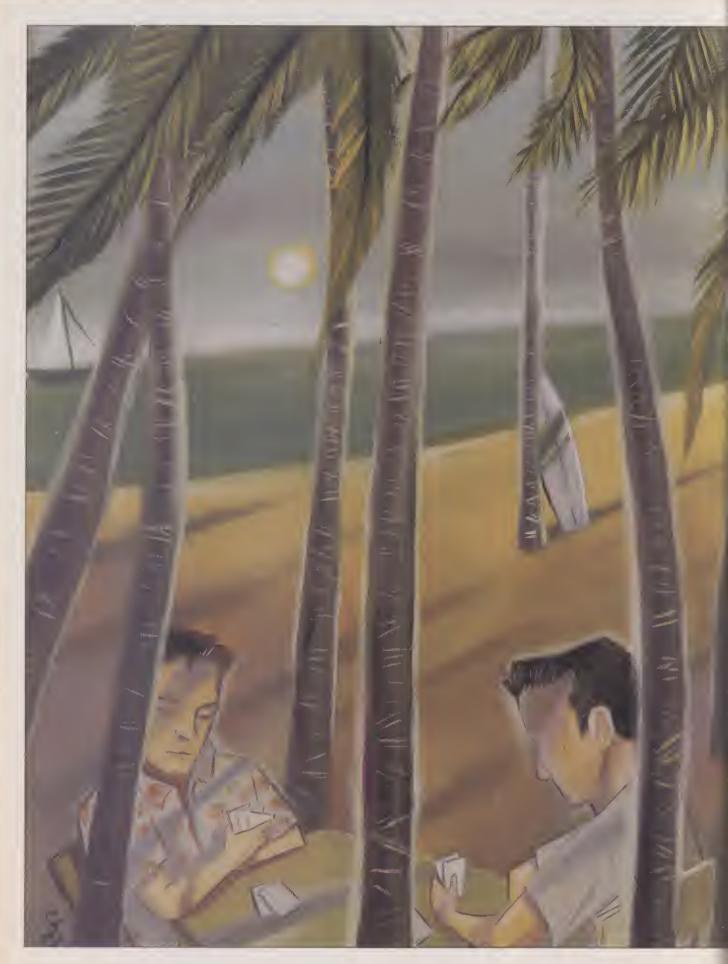






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TROUBLE PARADISE

Why is the **U.S. government** spending our money chasing a couple of college kids in the Caribbean? Because **the Feds** don't know what to do about **online gambling** By Justin Ware

or the most part, the "Where Are
They Now?" updates in the
Buckingham Browne & Nichols
School's March 1999 alumni newsletter are perfectly mundane—just the
sort of thing you'd expect from a tony
private institution in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Dan Harris finally married
his Middlebury sweetheart, Susan
Loewing, on the 24th of June." "Steve
Davenport moved to New York to take
a job for Boston Consulting." "Richard
Rosen just got back from a backpacking trip across Europe."

But then there's the last entry: "Haden Ware is a bookie down in Antigua currently under federal indictment."

It's a bit jarring, especially for Ware himself (Ware is not related to the writer of this story). The 24-year-old, who has two years of college under his belt, has indeed spent the past year and a half

wanted by the FBI. The criminal complaint that names him—brought by U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Mary Jo White—is based on the Wire Communications Act of 1961. The charge? Online gambling.

"Trapped in paradise," Ware says with a sigh, sipping a beer under the thatched roof of the Coconut Grove, a beachside joint where the bartender lets him carry a tab. "You want to check out the boat? You have to check out the boat."

The boat is a 29-foot Sea Ray Sundancer. It's new, or fairly new, the result of an upset in last year's National Football League schedule. The game pitted the Green Bay Packers against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Monday night, high stakes. A preponderance of bets was being laid on Green Bay, and in the gambling world, a vast differential in bets creates a large liability for the bookie. If

Green Bay beat the spread, Ware's company would take quite a hit. To calm their nerves, Ware and his colleagues made an agreement: They would root for the Steelers, and if the Steelers won, they would buy a boat. The Steelers won.

It's a tough gig, being an offshore bookie. When Ware's not taking bets on sporting events, he golfs, swims, drinks, and hangs out with his German girlfriend. There's only one problem: The way things stand, he cannot return to the U.S. a free man.

"The Internet is not an electronic sanctuary for illegal betting," U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said after the complaint was issued. "To Internet betting operators everywhere, we have a simple message: You can't hide online, and you can't hide offshore."

Wanna bet?

If you want to make your fortune in

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHELLE CHANG

online gambling, and you're an American, the first thing you have to do is leave the country. There are basically two types of gambling Web sites-casinos and socalled sports books—and neither can be run legally from within the U.S.

Setting up shop offshore is no cakewalk, either. Overhead can be high, and most countries require licensing fees, which can run as high as \$75,000 a year. But if the costs are high, the rewards are even higher. The number of countries extending Internet gambling licenses increases on practically a daily basis, and the small countries are moving the fastest. Once you get past familiar names like Australia and Austria, the licensers tend to be places like Cook Islands, Curação, Dominica, Grand Turk, Mauritius, Saint Kitts, Trinidad, and Vanuatu.

But why not? In Antigua alone, more than \$1 billion was bet last year at sports books. So even if the house cut is only 5 percent, you're still talking more than \$50 million in revenue flowing onto an island that's just 14 miles long.

Opportunity like that was too good to pass up for Jay Cohen, a 27-year-old trader on the San Francisco Stock Exchange. Cohen started one of the first online sports books in 1997, working out of a small office suite in Antigua. After a couple of investors agreed to back him, he persuaded two friends to join him: Steve Shillinger, an options trader with more than 18 years of experience and a head for numbers: and Haden Ware, a student Cohen had met on the trading floor. The WORLD SPORTS **EXCHANGE** was born.

The decision to work from Antigua was intended to keep things legal. "We were very open about what we did," Shillinger says. "If we could have done this in San Francisco, we would have. We came down here because we thought we would be licensed to do what we wanted to do."

The Justice Department saw things differently. Nearly three years after the launch of their business, Jay Cohen is in Seattle awaiting trial, and Shillinger and Ware are considered fugitives. Cohen chose to come back and fight the charges; Ware and Shillinger chose to stay and run the business.

Fortunately for them, and frustratingly for the FBI, as long as they stay in Antigua, they can't be touched. Since extradition requires both countries to agree on the offense, and Antigua considers online gaming to be perfectly legal, Ware and Shillinger

If you want to make your fortune in online gambling, and vou're an American, the first thing you have to do is leave

can't be extradited.

They also can't leave.

the country

"When I first came down here, I was going to school," Ware recalls, speaking in a low, casual drawl that's sometimes inaudible among the pings that emanate from the computers each time a new bet comes in. "Jay called me up and said, 'I'm going to the Caribbean. Are you in?" And I said, 'Yeah, I'll come down, take a summer off, have a good time.' It's turned out to be a little bit longer than that."

THE LOCALE: ANTIGUA

The island nation of Antigua and Barbuda is a curious place. On the one hand, it's a haven for offshore gaming, and is thus a bit of a technological wonder: Office buildings are sprouting up hardwired with Tr lines, taking advantage of a fiberoptic cable that leads all the way back to Miami. On the other hand, no road is wider than two lanes, and most squeeze back to one when stray goats meander onto the gravel. If you visit and decide to rent a car, be prepared to stop often for directions. Street signs are less common than snowfalls.

Antigua and Barbuda is a poor country. Stuck about midway around the curve formed by the West Indies-closer in than Trinidad and Tobago but farther out than Puerto Rico-it doesn't have much to distinguish itself from its Caribbean brethren. Antigua's heyday occurred in the time of slavery, when cotton and sugarcane plantations thrived at the expense of local laborers.

Since then, it's been a rough road. Sure, there's tourism (every day during the high season, cruise ships dock in the capital city of Saint John's), but when Cuba opens up, as people in Antigua are assuming it will, tourism dollars will become scarcer. A new source of revenue needed to be found.

Online gambling was the savior.

Since about 1995, with the U.S. government attempting to prohibit online gambling, other countries have stepped up to the plate—particularly poor countries with nothing to lose, such as Antigua and Barbuda.

Spend a few days on Antigua and it becomes clear why attempts by the U.S. to curtail online gambling are going to be a tough sell around the world. There's serious revenue at stake, and if the U.S. doesn't want it, the Antiguans do. Native Antiguans driving their newly purchased Escorts and moving into their own apartments for the first time aren't afraid of America cracking down on online gambling. They're afraid, as one Antiguan explained to me, of America making it legal.

FUGITIVES THREE AND FOUR: WORLD WIDE TELESPORTS

Also cited in the Justice Department's criminal complaint is Jessica Davis. The energetic thirtysomething Midwesterner seems an unlikely candidate for having a criminal record. With a North Dakota accent still noticeable after five vears in the Caribbean. Davis wants to talk more about her newborn daughter than about her fugitive status. Unlike the other defendants, Davis didn't go to Antigua because of online gambling. The Black Hills University student was pursuing an internship in business administration and tourism. But jobs are scarce in Antigua, and after working at a dive shop for a while, she met Bill Scott, who was hiring for a company called worLD WIDE TELESPORTS.

Davis started out answering phones. As WWTS grew, so did her responsibilities. Eventually, the company became one of the biggest operations in Antigua, with more than r25 employees and a toll-free phone number that rings off the hook. The Web site went up a few years after the 800number, and by that time Davis was senior enough to do an interview with The New York Times the week of the Super Bowl. A couple of months later, the criminal complaint was issued, and Davis and Scott joined Ware, Cohen, and Shillinger on the

"All I am is an American who was already down here and needed a job," argues Davis. "They basically tried to

wanted list.





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Smart Computing, 3/98

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could have wiped away a year's worth of work. It could have screwed up your data. It could have tucked its deadly digital infection deep inside your hard drive. It could have, and would have...but you had Norton AntiVirus.™

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"The 1999 Software Product Of The Year!" Windows Magazine, 7/99

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And our new 2000 version packs even stronger antidotes. It automatically scans all incoming e-mail attachments. It stops ActiveX and Java code

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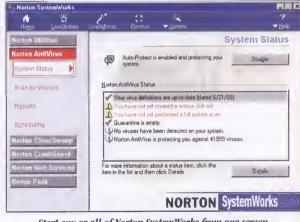
Tick...tick...tick...tick.
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— PC Magazine, 5/99

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SYMANTEC.

arrest me because I was an employee of WWTS. I'm not even an owner. It's like if you were a janitor, and you were born in Nebraska, and you work for an online casino, you're culpable."

The phone rings. It's Davis's husband, who owns a boat and takes tourists around Antigua. Their baby is a bit colicky, so Davis speeds up the interview with a shrug. "If I had to redo it, I'd do it the same way," she says, drawing together her bag, "except when I did interviews and talked to people over the phone, I'd say my name is Jennifer Daniels from Toronto."

THE ACTION

Both Davis and Shillinger are quick to clarify that they were not indicted but, rather, were simply named in a criminal complaint. An indictment, which involves a more-serious charge, must be brought by a grand jury, whereas a complaint can simply be brought by a prosecutor. But being named in a complaint is no walk in the park: They are still fugitives, still being pursued by the FBI.

The FBI, which located the bookmakers for the DOJ in the first place, has been vigorous in its manhunt since—or at least as vigorous as it's possible to be without encroaching on Antigua's sovereignty. When Ware's brother got married this year, FBI agents were there, to see if he would appear. He didn't—though he did listen to the ceremony via a cellular phone tucked in the best man's breast pocket.

Davis, Shillinger, and Ware all say that a lot rides on Cohen's case, and Cohen's lawyers agree that the decision will be precedent-setting. As the one defendant from the criminal complaint who is actually going to trial (all the others named have either plea-bargained, with minimal fines and penalties, or, in the case of Ware, Shillinger, Scott, and Davis, remain fugitives), the founder of World Sports Exchange sits in Seattle waiting for his fate to be decided so that he can either return to his business or abandon it. With the case pending, Cohen's attorneys have muzzled their client, but Ware talks freely about the charges. He actually seems excited about the case.

"If they were going to go after anybody, they might as well go after Jay," Ware says. "He's going to stand up in court and look like a Cub Scout. Here's a guy who went to Cal [Berkeley], graduated with a degree in nuclear engineering, became a successful options trader, and doesn't have a blemish on his record. If anyone was going to fight the battle, Jay was the best guy for it."

The case against Cohen, and everybody else, hinges on the Wire Communications Act, written in 1961 to combat interstate gambling by making it illegal to transfer funds for wagers via phone lines. The relevant section has thick, legislative wording but is worth quoting: "Whoever being engaged in the business of betting or wagering, knowingly uses a wire communication facility for the transmission in interstate or foreign commerce of bets or wagers, or information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers, on any sporting event or contest shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

Though all that seems fairly straightforward, if you read on, the picture starts to cloud a bit. The law's next section allows wagers "from a State or foreign country where betting on that sporting event or contest is legal into a State or foreign country in which such betting is legal."

The confusing nature of the Internet doesn't clarify things much. Where does a bet actually occur online? At the server? At the bettor's computer? At the bank?

In June, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, a group charged by Congress with conducting a comprehensive national study on gambling, released a report that, though generally critical of online gambling, acknowledges that the issue is a muddy one. "The mention of 'transmission' of bets or wagers or 'information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers' raises concerns over the definition of those words when applied to the Internet," the report reads. "Is posting a

When Ware's brother got married, **FBI** agents were there, to see if he'd appear. He didn't—but he did listen to the ceremony via a cell phone in the best man's pocket

Web site that provides citizens an opportunity to engage in Internet gambling a 'transmission' of illegal services and information?" After all, information on the Internet isn't really "transmitted"—it's put on a server, and you can go get it. Whether that's transmission depends largely on your point of view.

The Wire Communications Act has problems of its own. First, it was written long before anyone had conceived of the Internet, and not all transmissions across the Net use wires. Second, questions abound as to whether Americans overseas would be liable anyway, particularly if they were merely employees. Lawyers involved with the case use as an example an American working for a hash bar in Amsterdam: Could she be arrested after an American tourist bought marijuana there? Probably not.

Third, the Web is a global communications system designed to circumvent borders, and laws don't translate well across international lines, so jurisdictional issues loom large. Precedent in this area is slim. though getting thicker-on July 22, a New York judge threw the book at an online casino, arguing that "what makes Internet transactions shed their novelty for jurisdictional purposes is that...they are all executed by and between individuals or corporate entities which are subject to a court's jurisdiction." Thus, according to the New York judge, anything done by a New York surfer on the Internet, regardless of where the offending site is located. falls under New York law.

Still, the weaknesses of the Wire Communications Act, coupled with the fear that the government might lose the Cohen case and others, are sparking further attempts to regulate gambling on the Net. Chief among these efforts is S.692—also known as the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act—a bill sponsored by Senator Jon Kyl, an Arizona Republican.

One thing is for certain, though: The U.S. might be attempting to prohibit online gambling, but it also provides most of the demand. According to some estimates, more than 80 percent of online gamblers are Americans. The rest of the world is more than happy to provide the supply.

THE UNTOUCHABLES

Stuart Brazier pulls on a cir ar as he rolls his Jeep around a shoulderless road, squinting out the window at the faded semblance of a gas station, trying to figure out how to get to our destination. He's already shown me the new office building for **PLAYSTAR**, his casino company, and now he wants me to see the only really touristy spot in Antigua: English Harbor, where Horatio Nelson holed up against the Caribbean winds in 1784.

By the time we find it, Brazier's polemic is well under way. His disdain for American regulation attempts is poorly concealed. "The U.S. is as big a brother as you'll ever get," he declares. "At the risk of sounding paranoid, the U.S. has got a side to it that they don't like people to see. There's definitely strong-arming and intimidation."

Actually, Brazier isn't worried about the U.S., because he's South African. If the U.S. strengthens regulations, people will still keep betting—there just won't be any Americans left to take the bets and reap the rewards. Brash and confident, Brazier actually seems to welcome Washington's attempts to crack down on gambling. The only thing a crackdown does, from his point of view, is remove his competition.

And here's Brazier's main point: Nothing in any proposed legislation makes it illegal to place bets. Americans are not allowed to *take* online bets, but they can still wager on the NFL with no penalty. That creates a giant loophole the rest of the world is poised to sail through. If Americans can still place bets online, and foreigners can still take them, why would gambling stop?

"That's the beauty of the Internet," he says. "The tide moves in one overwhelming mass, especially if things are draconian, and they'll keep gambling. So why should we be threatened? People will still come to us."

Brazier has sympathy for the American Web site owners named in the complaint. He says he would never remain a fugitive, though; if it were him, he would go back to the States and fight the charges.

"I would never want to run my life with that hanging over my head," he says. "You can't go through life being a fugitive. I'd go back and fight, and it would cost me a ton of money. But the fact is, the U.S. is big enough that it can make life really heavy for the little people."

Brazier takes another puff on his cigar. "The U.S. is the only one doing this, you know. They can't stop it. So what does any of this achieve?"

THE CASE AGAINST ONLINE GAMBLING

So what *does* any of this achieve? Good question. Most of the arguments against online gaming proffered by Senator Kyl, the author of S.692, are debatable. One of Kyl's main objections is that Internet gambling "magnifies the problems normally associated with gambling." But that isn't always true.

Take problem gambling. In many ways, online gaming is an improvement over the off-line version. Credit card companies can't legally collect on gambling debts, so many sports books and casinos no longer allow customers to use their MasterCards or Visas to gamble online, leaving wired cash and money transfers as the only way to open accounts. And unlike their counterparts in such places as Las Vegas, online gambling sites have limits on how much

Is a man who goes online to dump hundreds of dollars into a state lottery

really less worthy of protection than someone playing blackjack?

you can bet (or, more accurately, how much you can lose) per month, and the house will never extend credit. You can't bet what you don't have, so the farm is a little safer.

What's more, there's the alcohol factor. Vegas casinos may not admit it, but they're not giving away booze out of philanthropy. "You can be lost in a casino for 50 years, gambling your money away, and no one will give you another glance other than to ask if you need another drink," Brazier says. "Why do they give away free booze? So you can be less effective at gambling."

Still, online gaming is as much of a profit-hungry industry as off-line gaming, and the profits come from the fact that, for the player, gambling is a losing proposition. Brazier argues that most people know that. He says people gamble because it's fun, and not because they are expecting to clear the house. But the money is still real, and the

fact that it's being wagered on the Internet brings up some new issues, particularly constant availability.

Unless you live near Vegas, Atlantic City, or certain Indian reservations, it's pretty hard to gamble 24 hours a day. With online gambling, a quick casino experience is available in the morning when you're sipping your coffee, at work when your supervisor isn't looking, and at night when you're tired of watching television—and you don't even have to throw on a pair of pants to ante up.

Some experts, like those on the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, believe that the Internet is introducing people to gambling at an earlier age. Even if the child-availability argument is overblown—most 12-vear-olds don't have a few grand to wire to a sports book—college students betting textbook money on hoops isn't a good trend. The NFL, National Basketball Association, National Collegiate Athletic Association, and Major League Baseball make a good point when they argue that the integrity of sports suffers when games become a vehicle to redistribute money from college students to guys on boats in Antigua.

But is America's crusade against online gambling really a moral issue? The antigambling legislation loses a certain amount of credibility when one looks at the substantial list of exceptions to S.692. "Authorized" horse racing has been exempted, as have fantasy sports leagues and state lotteries. Is a man who goes online to dump hundreds of dollars into a state lottery (which he would almost certainly lose) really less worthy of protection than someone playing blackjack? Probably not, but online blackjack dealers don't have the lobbying power of state lottery officials or, for that matter, Vegas.

The loopholes in the Kyl bill, most people in the gaming industry believe, make it apparent that prohibiting online gambling is more about protecting the gambling that's already legal than protecting the citizenry. "Without a doubt, it has absolutely nothing to do with morality," guffs Brazier. "As far as I'm concerned, the stock market is just as much of a crap shoot as an online casino. But the stock market has lobbyists."

THE FUTURE OF THE FUGITIVES

So, what about Jessica Davis, Bill Scott, Steve Shillinger, and Haden Ware? Even

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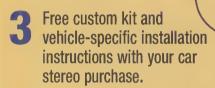
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if further legislation is passed, can the U.S. really do anything to them? Not while they stay in Antigua. And if they were to leave, it wouldn't dent their companies much, "Even if I can't work here, WWTS is still going to continue." Davis says. "Our office is run by Antiguans. What are they going to do, come to Antigua and tell the girls up front who've been born and bred here that they can't take bets? We're just on the complaint because we're the only Americans they could find "

Shillinger seems equally undaunted by further legislative attempts. They don't affect the offshore community muchat least not the bookmakers. "I'm not too worried about what the Kyl bill is going to do," he says, "because they've changed it so it's not illegal for our customer to place a bet. Originally, that was going to scare away some of our customers. But now, the Kyl bill will say that what we're doing down here is illegal. Well, they already told us that. They've pretty much done everything to us they could do."

So Davis, Shillinger, Scott, and Ware wait. Of the four, Davis seems the most content, mainly because her husband and baby girl live with her in Antigua. Her life is there now. Still, she is slightly embarrassed about her predicament.

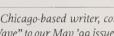
"I come from a political background," she explains. "My grandfather was governor of North Dakota. My family is close to the governor of North Dakota and his family right now, and they're like, 'So, how's Jessica doing?' 'Oh, she's doing great, doing great.' What are they supposed to say? I'm a fugitive from justice?"

Ware appears contemplative, even mellow, about his situation, perhaps because he's only 24. He seems content to wait things out, playing golf and boating from island to island when he's not watching ESPN. As we sit in the Coconut Grove bar, watching an inflated sun slip below the sea, he even acknowledges the other side, and allows that it must be a frustrating situation for the FBI: "If I were a Fed, and I saw us in magazines, living it up, riding around in boats"—he pauses to take another sip of rum punch—"I'd be

But would he bet on the Feds against Antigua?

"Not on your life."

JUSTIN WARE, a Chicago-based writer, contributed "Cheat Wave" to our May '99 issue.





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3 (1, 1/10)

Across the Web, **wine enthusiasts** are gathering to share everything from tasting notes to views on interstate **shipping laws**. And as often as possible, they let their **passion** spill over into the real world **By Alissa Quart**



cellardwellers

like varietals!" one man trilled. "This smells like popcorn,"
a woman said as she inhaled the bouquet of a glass of buttery-yellow Chardonnay. "Put your whole schnoz in!" urged
the tasting table's foreman. Halfway between a dinner party
and a dog show, the event—officially known as a WineRave—was

sponsored in part by the **WINE BRATS**, one of the Web's hundreds of wine-lover communities. With 50 chapters scattered around the country, the Brats organization has spent the past five years coordinating youth-oriented bacchanals like this one.

And as the Wine Brats' site proclaims, "This is definitely not

your parents' wine tasting."

Though the Brats are a slick bunch, heavily sponsored by the wine industry (reportedly, they receive \$1 million a year from vintners in California's Sonoma County and in Australia), most of the Web's oenophiles are spirited amateurs. DR. BACCHUS, another wine site, has visitors from all around the globe. And the clever gits at the UNIVERSITY OF BATH STUDENTS UNION WINE SOCIETY even post photos of their wine tastings (counterprogramming, presumably, for dull geography tutors and flavor-of-the-month Brit pop bands).

"I suspect that a majority of wine drinkers are like myself and my friends," says Scott D. Davis, a 39-year-old Web designer in rural Indiana whose **SEISMO-ZOMBIE SITE O' WINE**, launched in 1994, was one of the earliest online wine sites. "We're not experts or wine professionals, but we like a good glass of wine now and then." His site tests this thesis with a tastebud challenge, pitting bargain brands against finer labels: "We wanted to see if we could tell a \$4 wine from the local supermarket from the \$22 wine the connoisseurs recommend."

One of the motherships in the online enology scene is **ROBIN GARR'S WINE LOVERS' PAGE.** On Garr's forum, hundreds of like-minded souls gab about Champagne law ("Champagne must be made in the French Champagne. Even 'méthode champenoise' is no longer allowed for sparkling wines outside France."); about which wines best complement Latin cuisine (participants were split on the merits of a 1995 Whitehall Lane Merlot); and about how many glasses one can safely sample at a tasting (some say more than 75!).

Many online wine devotees, including George Heritier, cofounder of the GANG OF POUR, say that the medium has brought them instant legitimacy. "The Gang of Pour would be nothing more than an offbeat Detroit-based tasting group if it weren't for the Web," says Heritier. "We've had wine tasters and wine makers alike send us bottles to try, and if they are great, we say so. And if they suck? Well, we say that, too!"

A manager of a private club's all-male theater in Detroit, Heritier talks about wine online at least two hours a day. "In the community, we talk about bret [brettanomyces], a yeast where a small amount brings about a positive effect, and a large amount can make a wine smell like a barnyard," he says, his voice rising with excitement. "We talk

about volatile acids online. I'll also extol bottles of the Super Tuscan region and the '95 Castello Banfi Summus."

But the online wine clubs aren't all talk. In fact, Net enologists are often wine activists. These days, they are up in arms over renewed legislative interest in the Webb-Kenyon Act, an obscure 1913 federal law that, among other things, restricts the interstate shipment of wine directly to individuals in certain states. Another source of ire is the bill passed by the House on August 3 that would restrict the sale of wine online (the Senate passed a similar measure earlier this year). Opponents claim that the bill—known as the Twenty-First Amend-

another cause: trying to increase wine consumption. According to research from the Wine Institute, a public policy advocacy group made up of California wineries, U.S. wine consumption is down slightly since 1982, from 2.22 gallons annually per capita to 1.96 in 1998. And Americans born between 1965 and 1976 tend to get their alcohol from other sources. Bey Brock-Alexander, cofounder of 2CHICS AND A BOTTLE OF WINE.COM, wants to return wine to the good graces of Gen-Xers. Brock-Alexander is especially troubled by the fact that although the majority of wine drinkers are women, men buy most of the wine. "Although it's hard to complain when some-



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-GEORGE HERITIER, Gang of Pour

ment Enforcement Act—is simply a sop to wholesalers and a blow to smaller vintners.

On the state level, too, there have been efforts to curb online wine sales. In Massachusetts recently, a group of wine wholesale shareholders took online vintner VIRTUALVINEYARD.COM and FedEx to court (the case was dismissed). Cases of wine were confiscated in an enforcement action in New Jersey. And Kentucky has enacted its own law that makes it a felony to ship wine directly to Kentucky consumers. The effect of all this has been chilling for online wine merchants.

Unsurprisingly, the Web's wine enthusiasts are against the recent laws. What's surprising is their passion: They are as fervently pro-ferment as marijuana-legalization activists are pro-pot. In fact, they even have a goofy name for their struggle: "Free the Grapes."

"Oh, yes," says Heritier. "There are lots of discussions online about interstate wineshipping laws."

Web oenophiles also are often united in

one else buys the wine," she says, "we believe we should all be informed about anything we consume and anything we do."

And Gang of Pour's Heritier thinks the Web is working to restore wine's allure. "Every month," he says, "there are more and more people online, asking questions and sharing their experiences."

Because wine is a social drink, the online talk eventually decants into realworld meetings. At the WineRave, the swinging sommeliers and bopping bacchants swilled Kendall-Jackson until long after midnight. Some were casual drinkers, still ignorant about the finer points of finer wines. Some were young fogies who could converse passionately about Rhônes and Bordeaux. And still others didn't seem to be thinking much about the different kinds of wine enthusiasts, online or off. They were just drunk on the scene.

ALISSA QUART writes for The Independent (London), Feed, Salon, and other publications.

Who needs a time-share condo when you can get away to the **netherworlds** of Britannia and Norrath? After all, a quarter million merry **adventurers** must be on to something By Marc Saltzman

ired of noisy neighbors, high property taxes, and the driveway-to-driveway alienation of your subdivision? Consider a second home in Norrath, population 130,000. There, posing as an elf, an ogre, a dwarf, or even just a plain old human being, you and a roving band of fellow adventurers can stake out a homestead, then spend your nights and weekends on challenging quests: slaying a dragon, creating guilds and recruiting new members, or simply recovering a stolen artifact. Unless you've learned the ancient art of teleportation, you had better be in shape: You'll have to go on foot, and this planned community encompasses 38 square miles of terrain.

Though it may sound like Disney town-planning on acid, Norrath is the setting for EverQuest, an online multiplayer role-playing game (RPG) from Sony's 989 Studios. This title, along with Origin Systems' Ultima Online—home of Britannia, which also boasts a population of 130,000—are the stunning graphical descendants of text-based MUDs (multiuser dimensions) and the

Dungeons & Dragons dice games that swept the bedrooms, basements, and dorm rooms of American geeks in the late '70s.

As was the case in those dragon-slaying days, these games take their fantasy quite seriously. For example, it can take more than eight hours of "real time" to traverse Ultima's Britannia. We're talking all-inclusive virtual worlds housing their own ecology, politics, economy, and social rules of engagement. Clearly, this isn't Monopoly.

Watercooler chats with zealous coworkers persuaded Sean Larouche of Vancouver to visit Norrath. It wasn't long before his creation—a powerful Half-Elf Ranger dubbed "Abort"—began roaming Norrath's digital landscape. "Online games like EverQuest put you in an evolving story, unlike most games that are completely linear. [It] is constantly changing...and not fixed whatsoever," says Larouche, an account representative at a network-consulting firm, who confesses to spending way too many hours "inside." He recalls one memorable mission that involved

traveling across several continents via warship to collect four pieces of the powerful and sought-after Trueshot Bow.

"Arkorh," a 22-year-old student from Dallas, claims never to have played anything as "geeky" as Dungeons & Dragons, but admits to being drawn to the openness of the game world: "Forget vegging out in front of the tube and having someone spoonfeed you a lame story. I'd much rather dive into an unpredictable fantasy environment, with real people on the other end, and where there are challenges and interaction.

"It's also a social thing," Arkorh continues. "It's incredible that you can meet people playing from anywhere. And while you're playing, you're chatting, too, so you can get to know people quite well." In fact, Arkorh says Ultima Online—which he spends three to four hours playing each day—has led him to a potential love interest: a 20-year-old female Wood Elf Druid from Chicago, who chooses to remain anonymous.

Some RPG-inspired liaisons can get quite involved, both online and off. Fictional wedding ceremonies between fictional characters, which take place sporadically among Ultima's Britannians, may require a password or entry fee. In one case, a British adventurer logged off long enough to travel to the U.S. to *really* tie the knot with a fellow gamer.

Marriage might be a fine idea for those who've met while "questing," but gamer/non-gamer unions are not without their struggles. In one instance, a recent bride complains that she's seen little of her husband since he first set virtual foot in Norrath this spring. "When you talk of drug or alcohol addiction, people take you seriously," says the 27-year-old dental hygienist from New York, who didn't want to be identified in print. "But good luck in getting a straight face out of someone when you tell them your spouse can't stop playing video games on the Internet. Without exaggerating, I've woken up alone in the morning many times, and he's still on the damn computer. Now, that's a problem."

For those who've come to the realization that they cannot simultaneously juggle a day job and a virtual one, there's **EBAY** [www.ebay.com], the online auction service. There, hardcore gamers can and do sell digital selves and possessions. Earlier this year, characters, gold reserves, and castles began appearing as sale items on the site [see "Gold Star Sites: Auctions," page 174]. Why would someone want to procure an established RPG adventurer? To bypass hours and hours of game play, and become instantly powerful.

Several Ultima Online accounts have sold for as much as \$3,000, though most fledgling merchants ask for only a few hundred dollars. A quick scan on eBay revealed close to 2,000 EverQuest- and Ultima Online—related auctions in progress at press time.

Thankfully, it doesn't cost a fortune to get started in either gaming world: Both Origin Systems and 989 Studios charge "residents" approximately \$10 a month to participate in their respective worlds. And given the swelling number of dues-paying denizens, it's no surprise that Microsoft is jumping on the online RPG bandwagon with Asheron's Call, which will be available this month at the MSN GAMING ZONE [zone.msn.com].

With Microsoft's entry into the RPG realm, your options for netherworld adventuring are bound to grow. Expect other enterprising game developers to bring their own virtual realms to market soon. Looks like you can have that second home you've always wanted, after all.

MARC SALTZMAN writes "Click! Games" and is a Level 13 Barbarian.





Virtual Reality

STAKE YOUR CLAIM AND ACQUIRE RICHES IN THESE ALTERNATIVE GAMING REALMS

ASHERON'S CALL

[www.microsoft.com/games/zone/asheronscall]

AD&D DARK SUN

[www.ten.net/pcgaming/games/darksunonline/welcome.html]

EVERQUEST

[www.everquest.com]

GEMSTONE III AND DRAGONREALMS

[www.play.net/simunet_public]

THE KINGDOM OF DRAKKAR

[www.mpgn.com/3GameProfiles/3al.html]

MERIDIAN 59 DARK AUSPICES

[www.3do.com/meridian]

ULTIMA ONLINE

[www.uo.com]

UNDERLIGHT

[www.mplayer.com/rpg/games/underlight]

Faerie Sales

GAMERS IN THE MARKET FOR AMULETS, CASTLES, AND ALTER EGOS CAN TROLL EBAY FOR DEALS

EverQuest Level 2I Mage w/4,500 platinum pieces \$250

Ultima Online, Awesome Atlantic Characters \$86

EverQuest Bertoxxulous Dwarven Ringmail Tunic \$10.50

Ultima Online Account w/Tower on Napa \$1,125

Small secluded house located on the Catskills Shard \$75

Great Lakes Ultima Online, Stocked Mining House \$169.50

EverQuest-Bag of Sewn Evil Eye (Rare!) \$80

Ultima Online Catskills Account -- A Must Have \$405

FOR SITES IN THIS STORY, PLEASE TURN TO THIS MONTH'S SITE ADDRESS GUIOE, OR VISIT WWW.YIL.COM/URL/99II/GAMES.HTML

YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE'S GOLD STAR SITES

THIS MONTH WE TEST AND ASSESS THE NET'S LEADING AUCTION SITES

AUGMINS

verybody Loves a Bargain. Go to a clearance special at your local department store, or to an estate sale in your neighborhood, and the thrill of finding that one item you've always wanted and getting it at a great price is irresistible. Web auctions bring that thrill to your computer, 24/7/365.

The phenomenon started with people trading their junk on eBay, but now you're as likely to find fine art right next to old watches on eBay and its many imitators. Retailers have also gotten in on the act, either pawning off their surplus to a house auction site or, as with **THE**SHARPER IMAGE [sharperimage.com], creating its own site to get rid of clearance items more efficiently and effectively.

We don't know yet if the bidding frenzy will forever change the way we buy and sell products. But we do know that it's a lot of fun to take on the auction sites, whether it's with a bidding paddle or an auctioneer's gavel. Read on to find the best sites to get going, going, gone on your own auction adventure.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Person-to-Person Auction Site

EBAY

[www.ebay.com]

If the Internet really is the Wild, Wild West all over again, eBay is its trading post. With an unparalleled number of items up for bid and an unbelievable number of people bidding on them, eBay fends off the mounting competition from Amazon.com, Yahool, and scores of others. The sheer volume always impresses, making eBay the definitive site for finding old toys, books, music, and electronics, as well as such eclectic items as vintage Partridge Family lunch boxes that would make David Cassidy jealous. In the odd event that you can't find something you

want, sign up for the Personal Shopper service and get notified by e-mail when that item becomes available. And because eBay is the original person-to-person auction, the seller's history often goes back long enough to give you stronger guidance about whom you're dealing with than at newer trading hubs. (To see how eBay's rivals stack up, see "Report Card," page 176.)

House Auction Site

ONSALE ATAUCTION

[onsale.com/atauction.htm]

OK, so the notion of buying products from someone named frEEkz323 at one of the person-to-person auctions unsettles you. You can still get in on the fun with what's known as a "house auction," where you're buying from a company. The advantages are that you pay with a credit card (no more money orders), the merchandise is always new or

refurbished, and there are even warranties. Onsale bests its competitors on several scores. Most house auctions show you only starting bids to entice you to click through, but Onsale lets you know how many bids have been made and the current price. Every item's detail page gives a maximum suggested bid—a helpful guideline based on retail price and product demand—so you don't overpay. Onsale's strong selection of name-brand computer products makes it the top auction site for bargain-hunting geeks (wesay that with love). Check out the Express Auctions, hourly events that compress all the excitement into 60 minutes.

Auction Resource Site

AUCTIONWATCH.COM

[auctionwatch.com]

Psst! Wanna get the inside scoop on how to make your foray into online auctions

BY DAVID LIDSKY • ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HOGUE



rewarding? Auction Watch gives you the tips, tools, and community to help. Detailed articles and how-to guides get newbies' feet wet, flag the top 10 auction scams to prevent you from getting played for a sucker, and offer advice on such topics as when to post negative feedback. Express yourself on the active message boards, read the latest on-theblock news, and find new auctions to explore with the well-categorized links. Sellers can take advantage of smart page counters that track how much business their goods are attracting, as well as free image hosting for photos of sale items.

Charity Auctions

WEBCHARITY.COM

[webcharity.com]

Here's one place where you can overbid and not feel bad about it afterward. WebCharity hosts online auctions for worthy organizations as disparate as the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and the San Jose Repertory Theatre. The auctions work like any other, and the charities are clearly named in the listings. Some of the items in the Virtual Thrift Shop are available at a fixed cost. You can donate your own items to be put up for bid and specify which charity you want to receive the proceeds.

Art Auctions

NICKLEBYS.COM

[nicklebys.com]

Looking for high-quality art for your home? Check out this well-organized site, which offers a variety of authenticated contemporary and antique artwork, including sculpture. The detail page usually tells you the retail value of what you're bidding on, and includes a thumbnail of a high-resolution photo. You can find a fair amount of bidding traffic here, although the fact that many auctions have an undisclosed reserve price depresses it a bit.

Collectors' Site

COLLECTORS UNIVERSE

[collectors.com]

What obsession fills the curio cabinets and shoe boxes in your house? No matter what passion you pursue, you're likely to find it at Collectors Universe, which

GOLD STAR SITES: AUCTIONS

offers sections dedicated to trading cards, Beanie Babies, coins, stamps, and more. In contrast to the anything-goes amateurism of eBay, the traders here are predominantly noted dealers, and you get access to price guides, lingo dictionaries, and authentication services. To really get into the spirit of things, turn on the MultiBid feature and go after more than one item at a time.

Meta-Auction Site

RIDDER'S EDGE

[biddersedge.com]

Man's best friend is, of course, a dog. But your dog can't fetch like Bidder's Edge, the auction fan's best friend. You can browse or search across 25 of the largest person-to-person and merchant auction sites, including eBay, Amazon.com,





GET THE GOODS: From Beanie Babies to new computers, everything is on the block.

Yahoo!, and Onsale, so you'll know who has what you're looking for, and for how much. Search returns include any past pricing data from an item's prior auction history, although that feature appears to be available only for items sold at house auction sites. Click on Item Watch to be notified by e-mail or ICQ every time a similar item becomes available.

Movie Memorabilia Auction

NEW LINE CINEMA AUCTION

[www.auction.newline.com]

Yeah, baby! Here's your chance to own a piece of movie history as New Line Cinema auctions off the goods that made New Line's hip movies even hipper, from the swim-

REPORT CARD: Person-to-Person Auction Sites

THE BASICS	SELECTION	TRAFFIC	TOOLS	SAFETY	OVERALL
EBAY www.ebay.com	A+ Others have hundreds of items; eBay has thousands. Example: 16,000 pieces of silver jewelry at eBay vs. 1,100 at Amazon.	A In many categories, more items have bidders than other sites have products. Can't sort by bid count to find hot auctions.	B~ Personal Shopper notifies you when items you're looking for become available.	B+ Limited warranty up to \$200 with \$25 deductible; detailed, long-term seller ratings with colored star system.	A
YAHOO! AUCTIONS auctions.yahoo.com	B+ Second best, after eBay. Example: I,900 pieces of costume jew- elry, compared with 250 at Amazon, II at AU, I7,000 at eBay.	B Good, but still distant second. Example: 20 cell phones had IO+ bids; 45 had IO+ bids at eBay. Can sort by bid count.	A Can get alerts by e-mail, pager, or Yahoo! Messenger; excellent categorization helps narrow search.	C+ Can bar certain individuals from participating in your auctions; can ask sellers questions within auction page.	B+
AMAZON.COM AUCTIONS auctions.amazon. com	B- Good, but still distant third. Example: 160 Pez dispensers vs. 500+ at Yahoo! and 2,000 at eBay.	B - Still has a way to go to catch up. Example: Only 15 percent of golf items had bids. Can sort by bid count.	B+ Updates your auctions on home page. "If you like this" feature steers you to similar items.	A- \$250 limited liability guarantee; can view nickname history to find scammers; star ratings to help users.	В
EXCITE AUCTIONS auctions.excite.com	D Poor selection. Example: II3 laptops, compared with 450 at Yahoo! and 4,300+ at eBay.	C Light traffic. One Beanie Baby out of 3,500+ had more than one bid, although bidding on computers was more active.	B ~ Directory only one level deep, then you're on search page; site sends you new product listings with Cool Notify.	C- Auction page buyer/seller feedback shows all plus and minus ratings, not a merged average like others.	C
AUCTION UNIVERSE www. auctionuniverse. com	F Not likely to have what you want. Example: Two laptops up for sale, compared with hundreds elsewhere.	F Low to nonexistent. Hard to find any items with more than one bid. Can't sort auctions by bid count.	C~ Good icons help you find reserve or Dutch auctions. Can't sort by time remaining in auction.	A \$19.95 a year Bid\$afe offers guar- anteed buyer/seller protection; can see who's using it on site.	C -

HOW WE RATED THE SITES: To select the best person-to-person auction site, we took part in a wide variety of auctions at each of the sites. We considered the ease with which each site lets you find, track, and bid in auctions. We searched for specific items and browsed categories. Every site offers basically identical methods for proxy bidding, tracking specific auctions, and notifying you of winning auctions. Testing took place in July and August; grades do not reflect features or upgrades that may have been added since then.

"I don't want to just beat

the market. I

want to wrestle

its scrawny
little body
to the ground
and make it
beg for mercy.



Today's hottest investment tip:

Get three free trades when you open an account.



Believe in yourself"

OBK Offer: Rec

O Three commission-free equity trades?
I want them. Please send me my FREE Ameritrade information kit along with an account application.

NAME

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STATE

MAIL ADDRESS

To get an application online, visit ameritrade.com or AOL keyword: ameritrade. Open an account between 9/1/99 – 12/20/99 and receive three commission-free equity trades to use in your first 90 days as a customer.

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buy

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n equity

Not valid with any other offer. Not available for IRA accounts. Market volatility and volume may delay system access and trade executions. Member NASD/SIPC. \$2,000 minimum equity required to open your account. SIPC account protection is \$500,000, including \$100,000 cash claims. An additional \$24.5 million in securities protection is provided. © 1999 Ameritade.

GOLD STAR SITES: AUCTIONS

offers sections dedicated to trading cards, Beanie Babies, coins, stamps, and more. In contrast to the anything-goes amateurism of eBay, the traders here are predominantly noted dealers, and you get access to price guides, lingo dictionaries, and authentication services. To really get into the spirit of things, turn on the MultiBid feature and go after more than one item at a time.

Meta-Auction Site

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[biddersedge.com]

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YAHOO! AUCTIONS auctions.yahoo.com	B+ Second best, after eBay. Example: I,900 pieces of costume jew-	B Good, but still distant second. Example: 20 cell phones had IO+ bids; 45	A Can get alerts by e-mail, pager, or Yahoo! Messenger; excellent	C+ Can bar certain individuals from participating in your	R+

AMAZON.COM
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"I don't want to just beat

the market. I

want to wrestle

its scrawny
little body
to the ground
and make it
beg for mercy.



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Special offer for opening your account between 9/1/99–12/20/99: Get three commission-free equity trades for use in your first 90 days as a customer. Call 1.800.728.8620 and mention offer code REC.

ameritrade.com AOL keyword: ameritrade

suits in Austin Powersto Chris Tucker's Rush Hour overalls. There's a healthy amount of bidding traffic here for the relative handful of gems up for sale. If you don't see what you want, you can create an Auction Agent to give you a heads-up when the goods you seek become available.

FOR LINKS TO ALL OUR GOLD STAR SITES THIS MONTH, GO TO YIL.COM/ GOLOSTAR. FOR LINKS TO ALL OUR GOLO STAR SITES, GO

GOLDS.

Travel Auction

TRAVELBIDS

[travelbids.com]

It's survival of the fittest at its finest: Travel agents fight for the right to save you money

while staving off their own extinction. Using what's known as a reverse auction, you reserve a trip on your own—but don't pay for it yet—then post it on the site for a \$5 fee. Certified agents then bid for the right to book your trip by cutting their commission and putting that money toward your fare. Travel costs must total at least \$250. The savines tend to be at least 5 percent. You also





GET IN THE GAME: Bid on Austin Powers's space suit, or haggle for a bargain teddy bear.

can post a full booking request, specifying your travel needs, and receive up to three bids from travel agents.

Rest Auction Alternative

HAGGLEZONE

[hagglezone.com]

Want to spice up your shopping experience without the suspense of someone swooping in with a last-second bid? Hagglezone adds a clever auction angle to an online

store. Shop for electronics, toys, and other goods as you would at any other e-commerce site, then negotiate the price with one of three "personalities": Monte, Dot, or Stubby. You go back and forth, driving down the price and getting snappy comebacks from your seller. If you think you haven't found the lowest price, you can haggle again with the same personality or pick another one to try for a better deal. We got a dashboard compass listed at \$10 for half that price through bargaining

A MUSER LODK: Selling at Auction

Once you see all the stuff available at Web auctions, you're going to say, "Hey, I've got plenty of junk cluttering up my garage that I could sell. Then maybe we'd be able to fit the car in there." Well, maybe not the last part, but selling online is a great way to find a good home for your old Discman or to create a market for your original artwork. Here's the inside scoop on how it works at each of the five major person-to-person auction sites.

AMAZON.COM AUCTIONS

[auctions.amazon.com] Cost: Nominal listing fee of 10 cents for every item applies through the end of the year. Closing costs are on a sliding scale: 5 percent for items up to \$25: \$1.25 plus 2.5 percent of an amount between \$25 and \$1,000; \$25.63 plus 1.25 percent of any amount greater than \$1,000.

For sale by owner: One-, 3-, 5-, 7-, and I4-day auctions. You're preregistered if you're an Amazon customer. To encourage someone to start bidding, you can choose to offer a 10 percent discount to the first bidder if he or she wins. Can select up to nine Amazon product pages where you want your auction to he promoted.

Quick take: Evolving into a nice site with some goodies for sellers.

AUCTION UNIVERSE

[www.auctionuniverse.com] Cost: Free to list, plus 2.5 percent closing costs.

For sale by owner: Onethrough I4-day auctions. Only site to let you set start and closing times. Must open an account and place at least \$10 in it to cover commission. Site doesn't automatically tell you where your auction page is when you're done posting. Can enable automatic second-chance auction if item doesn't sell-and you're going to need it. Quick take: Not much traffic.

and a hassle to get going.

[www.ebay.com]

Cost: 25 cents+ to list (depending on value of item), plus closing costs, which are basically the same as those at Amazon.

For sale by owner: Three-, 5-, 7-, and IO-day auctions. Must wait for e-mail confirmation of registration to get started. Must settle account using snail mail the first time, sending a check or requesting that eBay charge a credit card.

Quick take: No other site will draw as many potential buyers.

EXCITE AUCTIONS

[auctions.excite.com]

Cost: Free

For sale by owner:

Three-through I4-day auctions. Not as many subcategory choices for placing your item. Photos take a day to post. Can send photo via e-mail if you have trouble uploading it, or mail in photo and Excite will scan it. Can have auction viewed within other narts of the Classifieds2000 network.

Quick take: It's free, so why not? But it's not as good as Yahoo!

YAHOO! AUCTIONS [auctions.vahoo.com] Cost: Free

For sale by owner: Two- through 14-day auctions. Lets you upload photo directly. Not always easy to figure out in which of its categories Yahoo! placed your item.



Can have the site page you or send you e-mail or Yahoo! Messenger notes every time a bid is placed or you receive feedback.

Quick take: Because it's free to list and the traffic level is pretty good, you might want to start here and then go to eBay or Amazon if the item doesn't sell.

IN 1989, A TEAM OF COMPUTER SCIENTISTS CONDUCTED AN EXPERIMENT KNOWN AS "ON-LINE SHOPPING FORMS." SOME OF THE FINDINGS THEY PREFER YOU DIDN'T SEE.

June 20, 1989: A group of noted computer scientists from around the world gather in Building 4 at a small industrial park near Palo Alto, California. The purpose of their gathering is specific, highly confidential and morally reprehensible: a series of experiments to test the human tolerance level for e-commerce technology and, in particular, the human threshold for on-line shopping forms. In March of this year, the research findings were finally (and silently) made available to the public.

The contents of the study are alarming, and raise serious concerns about the unregulated use of forms by on-line companies today. In what can only be described as mental vivisection, human subjects were placed in front of a computer and exposed to dozens of complicated, multipage shopping forms. For hours at a time, subjects were forced to fill in hundreds of small boxes with obscure personal information. 93% of those subjects became disoriented and sometimes violently outraged (a condition now officially diagnosed as Post-Form Stress Disorder).





And yet the study concludes with the following recommendation: "Proceed with development." Today, millions of on-line shoppers suffer the consequences of that recommendation.

We are the Coalition
Against On-line Forms
(C.A.O.F.), an organization
dedicated to ending the
senseless torture imposed
on society by on-line shopping
forms. Our Emancipation
Agenda for America is as follows:
1. Raise political consciousness through nationwide boycotts, demonstrations, rallies
and picket lines. 2. Lobby for
legislation that prohibits the
excessive use of forms as a
prerequisite for purchasing

goods on-line. 3. Identify, target and root out politicians that remain ambivalent to this worldwide offense against common sense and sound user interface design.

Our Agenda for America also includes a recent partnership with Qpass, a Seattle-based company specializing in on-line services which eliminate forms from the on-line shopping experience. To date, tens of thousands of consumers have visited Qpass.com and registered for free form protection service. According to conservative estimates, tens of MILLIONS will

MILLIONS will become Opass members by the year 2000. A long-awaited victory against a despicable enemy.



We are one.
We are strong.
And we refuse to be guinea pigs in the ongoing experiment known as On-line Shopping Forms. For more information about C.A.O.F. and a calendar of coalition events, visit us at www.formssuck.org.

PAID FOR BY THE COALITION AGAINST ON-LINE FORMS.



IT'S TIME WE ENDED ON-LINE FORMS.

GO2NET

What's Next.

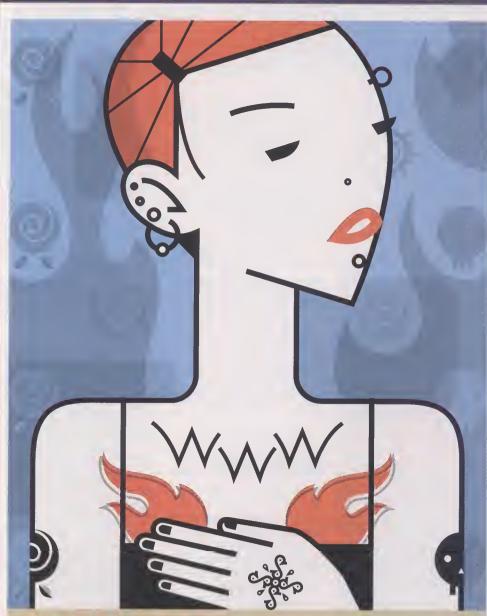
WHEN YOU'RE DONE SURFING.

www.go2net.com

THE GO2NET NETWORK: SILICON INVESTOR METACRAWLER 100HOT HYPERMART WEBMARKET PLAYSITE

: WebGuide

WHERE TO, HOW TO, BEST OF: OUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO LIFE ON THE WEB EDITED BY CREE MCCREE



Not so long a raised eyebr no big deal,

Not so long ago, a man sporting a pierced ear raised eyebrows. Now, pierced tongues are no big deal, and a model's midriff without a

belly button ring seems bare. For some, being marked with a Celtic tattoo may be a fashion statement. But many of the new tribalists inscribe their bodies to create a dialogue with the world around them, using the Web as a conduit. For a look at the rituals of today's young body modifiers, see **PAGE 196**.

CONTENTS

	_							- 7
NE	ia#	-9.3	ďΝ,	w _m	301	100		
To State 1	KME.	376	1.7	E 84	101	LE		

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

Not 3-D? Plus: Late-Night Talk Shows, Psychedelia, Football Fan Sites, Spite Sites

HEALTH & FITNESS 192

Doctor on Call: Prepping for Surgery Plus: Health Evaluators, Herbal Remedies, Weight Lifting

LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY196

The Home Front: Volunteer Opportunities Plus: Body Art,
Bar Guides, Advice Columns

LEARNING & CREATIVITY202

Brain Waves: Clocking the Year 10000 Plus: Literary Mags, Eco-Activism

TRAVEL & RECREATION206

Getaway Guru: Low-Season Bargains Plus: Ski Vacations, Hunting, Senior Travel

WEB USER 213
Broadcast Music Online
Plus: Language Translators

TNT Roughcut's DAVID POLAND on movie surfing,

CHOCOHOLICS of the world, unite! PAGE 198

Nolo.com's RALPH WARNER on self-help law, PAGE 204

New, Notable & Fun

A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT'S HOT-AND WHAT'S COOL-ON THE WEB THIS MONTH

RELAUNCH

OUT.COM America's leading gav and lesbian magazine unplugged its original Web outpost way back in 1996. It returns as a full-service community, cultural, and business hub, backed by its high-powered Wall Street partner, GFN.COM: THE GAY FINANCIAL NETWORK [www.gfn.com]. [out.com]

EL SITIO ¿Hablas español? Even if you don't, English-speakers are welcome at the new bilingual edition of the big Latin American portal. With the opening of its Miami office, the site now includes reportage from Latino communities across the U.S. [elsitio.com]

SHOCKWAVE.COM It's not just a killer app anymore. The multimedia

giant has unleashed a splashy new entertainment center packed with popular games, cartoons, and music. Use the free Shockwave Remote to send your faves to friends. Real Pool, anyone? [shockwave.com]

SEARCH & FIND

FAST SEARCH No stock quotes. no sports scores, no My Fast Search personal pages—just a lightningfast search engine with highly relevant results. [alltheweb.com]

GOVSPOT The U.S. government's massive FedWorld is just one superuseful site at a comprehensive gateway to civic resources at home and around the world, Find vour city's Web site, access Supreme Court decisions, and locate the U.S. embassy in Buenos Aires. From NATO updates to FDA safety standards, if it's governmental, it's here. [govspot.com]

MONEY & BUSINESS

WALL STREET JOURNAL **INTERACTIVE EDITION Entre**preneurs can locate venture capitalists (for a fee) and create business plans in the start-up section, then hop over to the travel center to book trips to court potential investors. [startup.wsj.com]; [travel.wsj.com]

SMARTMONEY.COM You can't get a degree from SmartMoney University. But you can get an education by taking Investing IOI and other courses, or using free tools that help you track the market. Come the devolution, you can cut your losses by auditing the Debt Management class. [smartmoney.com]

YAHOO! [yahoo.com] continues its hydra-headed expansion with a slew of new services: Yahoo! Postal Center, where you don't have to stand in line to buy e-stamps: Yahoo! Greetings. where you can bypass the stamps and send e-cards; Yahoo! Briefcase, where you can stash files and photos; and Yahoo! Everywhere, where you can manage your wireless gizmos.

Targeting the literary end of the market. LYCOS now features original content from the provocative online journal SALON[salon.lycos.com]. But it's not neglecting the popmusic masses. Look for major MP3 action, thanks to the portal's recent acquisition of the company that makes the popular Sonique audio player.

Backed by such heavy hitters as Microsoft and USA Networks. Black Entertainment Television has launched BET.COM, a portal for African-Americans. Also tapping into this burgeoning market is GLOBAL MECCA [globalmecca.com], an empowerment zone for entrepreneurs and investors that balances finance with strong literature and culture sections.

GRRL POWER

CHICKCLICK There were no riots at Lilith Fair, which ChickClick cosponsored. The gateway to "girl sites that don't fake it" keeps the good vibes going on several new

MISSING LINK? SITES WE SUGGEST YOU SAMPLE TOGETHER





Women on the Moon

HAT CONNECTS SABLE, THE VOLUPTUOUS FEMALE wrestler, with Laurie Anderson, the elfin avant-garde performance artist? Andy Kaufman, the comedic provocateur portrayed by Jim Carrey in Man on the Moon, the much-anticipated biopic. The impeccably curated ANDY KAUFMAN HOME PAGE [andykaufman.jvlnet.com] details his career as Inter-Gender Wrestling Champion, and mentions the Anderson link: She worked as Kaufman's "straight man" circa 1978. Anderson recounts the experience in Stories from the Nerve Bible, on sale with her other work at HOMEPAGE OF THE BRAVE: LAURIE ANDERSON [www.cc.gatech.edu/~jimmyd/laurie-anderson]. Though Kaufman died long before he could challenge Sable, we're sure he would have welcomed the chance. How does Sable spend her times ince her legal battle with the WWF forced her out of the ring? Check A Day in the Life of Rena Mero (Sable's real name) at RENAMERO.COM.

ANDY DIVINE: Laurie Anderson (left), and Rena Mero, the former Sable.

184 NOVEMBER 1999 YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE

SPOT LIGHT

Really the Blues

B Guitar Gabriel once observed. And though he passed on in 1996, the master songwriter/guitarist left a living legacy of his music, along with a remarkable project that his music had inspired.

MUSIC MAKER RELIEF FOUNDATION

[musicmaker.org] was born in the early '90s, when young musicologist Tim Duffy tracked down the long-retired Gabe in the projects of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and subsequently took him to Carnegie Hall. Music Maker has since revitalized the careers of dozens of aging Southeast artists, many of whom spring to life on the Web site via photos, oral histories, and audio clips. There's Willa Mae Buckner, 75, known for her "dirty songs" and her two 15-foot pet pythons. Bev-



A LIVING PAST: Music Maker artists Cootie Stark & Neal "Big Daddy" Pattman.

erly "Guitar" Watkins, 59, known for stage acrobatics that rival Chuck Berry's. Cootie Stark, 72, a blind guitarist who became an "overnight success" after Music Maker discovered him in 1997.

Both Watkins and Stark are currently headlining the Winston Blues Revival tour, which also features **TAJMAHAL** [taj-mo-roots.com]. Tourschedules are available at Music Maker. So is the chance to "give back to the roots of American music" with tax-deductible donations or CD purchases.

MUSIC GROOVES

GUITAR.COM Techno may come and jungle may go, but guitar rock is forever. Serving the entire spectrum of ax aficionados from pros to fans, the site offers a comprehensive menu of tools (scale and chord generators), tips (how to buy equipment), and smart editorial ("A&R Geek for a Day"). So put down that air guitar, dude, and log on. [guitar.com]

DIXIE CHICKS They're a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll, and a whole lot hot. The high-energy trio brings its act to the Web via sound and video clips and the requisite online store, where you can buy CDs and sexy baby doll tees. No word yet if the merch will eventually include temporary versions of their trademark foot tattoos. [www.dixiechicks.com]

AMERICA, AMERICA

VAGUEPOLITIX. "Warning: This site has been cleansed of celebrity worship, scandalmongering, and holy wars." Sound good? Then you'll appreciate this spunky political quarterly from PBS Online, which crosses *Utne Reader* with *Mad* magazine. [www.pbs.org/vaguepolitix]

ADAMQUEST.COM "The infogorge burgeons, creating an interactive bonanza of meaningless choice," opines AdamQuest.com. The bonanza includes this rabblerousing site, where Elvis, Jerry Lewis, and Charles Manson are the Yankee Doodle dandies who "embody the true legacy of America: showbiz & terror." [adamquest.com]

channels, including the SheWire news service. Too bad She wasn't around to provide a more balanced



PULP FICTION: The more lurid, the better.

view from the mosh pit at Woodstock. [chickclick.com]

GREASERGRRLS Not just for Dykes on Bikes (though you will find them here, too). Whether you like to race hot rods, restore classic cars, rebuild transmissions, or just plain adore metal and chrome, check this high-octane hub for female motor enthusiasts. [www.greasergrrls.org]

MISC/NEAT

THE NORTHERNER Your onestop shop for all things Scandinavian. Book a trip to the world's largest igloo. Shop for fish-skin clothes. Buy such extreme gourmet treats as smoked reindeer brain (\$62.99) and fresh reindeer penis (\$75.99). What are you waiting for? [northerner.com]

MARK MONLUX'S LURID PAPERBACK COVER OF THE

WEEK "Nothing pops off of a cover like a little primary color," observes Mark Monlux. Especially if what's popping is a sultry female with a torn shirt "holding a gun with a look of scorn on her face." If you agree, you will love this impressive collection from the 1930s, '40s, and '50s.

[www.nwrain.com/~monlux/ LuridPaperbackofWeek.html]

KIDS & TEENS

SONY WONDER TECHNOLO-GY LAB The hands-on exhibits at Sony's New York center are a real gee-whiz experience. Now surfers

HAPPENING BABES: Country-rockin' Dixie Chicks.

can get in on the fun. Build a facsimile of AIBO the robot dog, learn to write your name in binary numbers, and create your own technomusic mix with Walkman Tommy. Think you're the next Bill Gates? Compete to become the Web's #f Wired Student.

[sonywondertechlab.sonv.com]

MX: MAINXCHANGE It had to happen: a site where budding brokers can trade Stocks That Rock in a simulated bull market while fledgling eBay addicts earn their wings in cashless auctions. What's next? Virtual IPOs for the Pokémon set? [www.mainxchange.com]



:// WebGuide | ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

TREND SPOTTING BY BILGE EBIRI



3-D or Not 3-D?

Digital animators have already answered that question

HE FUTURE OF ONLINE ANIMATION IS expanding into new dimensions. Brilliant Digital Entertainment has already made a splash with its weekly 3-D "Webisodes" featuring such popular characters as Ace Ventura, Xena, and Superman. Available at MULTIPATH MOVIES & ADVENTURES [multipathmovies.com], the action fills your desktop screen with CD-ROM-quality images that download in a jiffy.

Now, in conjunction with Animation Magazine, BDE is sponsoring the Web's first all 3-D, real-time animation festival. Professional and amateur artists are invited to post their work at the DANCING PIXEL FESTIVAL [dancingpixel.com] through December 31, 1999. A jury of industry leaders will award prizes to the top entries in five categories, including experimental/abstract and music clips. So polish up those pixels, all you would-be auteurs....

The next chapter in the MP3 saga is unfolding at Virgin Megastores, where new in-store kiosks

ABOVE: 3-D renegades from Gravity Angels. RIGHT: O'Brien inspired the religion of Conanism.

allow customers to "burn" Internet music onto a CD to be purchased. Virgin's current agreement is with eight MP3 download sites, each of which will provide about 100 tracks for burning. Will Virgin's kiosks become the ATMs of the music world? Don't be surprised if you find yourself making your own CDs on the street three years from now.

QUICK CLICKS: Rockercum-digital entrepreneur David Bowie and his company, UltraStar Internet Services, are creating the Yankees' new official Web site. It will provide Net access and membership in the Yanks' online fan club. Bowie currently has no plans to rerecord "Diamond Dogs" in honor of the occasion....Hungry for yet another flashy, freaky, fun Web preview of a much-hyped horror movie? The official site for END OF DAYS [endof-days.com] may just turn out to be creepier than the film itself.

TELEVISION

Late-Night Talk

MOST RELIGIOUS The Church of Late Night with Conan O'Brien Although The Tonight Show with Jay Leno is the highest rated of the nighttime talkfests, the bland, middle-of-the-road show doesn't receive the adulation of its brethren. The first official site of the religion known as "Conanism" proves how dedicated late-night viewers can be. Built by and for people who wear "WWCD?" ("What Would Conan Do?") bracelets, it has information on how you can convert to the new belief system, as well as such religious texts as "The Ten Conanments," and "The Importance of Self-Loathing" by Saint Sean. [www.nlenx.com/Spam/Conan/ Church.htm]

MOST PRESIDENTIAL

David Letterman for President When we visited campaign headquarters, the site was already up to the top 46 reasons why we should elect Letterman to this nation's highest office, and vowed to add a new

rationale each day-although. as is typical in the political arena, that promise hasn't been kept. Serious-minded voters may not like such ideas as No. 19: "Just think of all the things

> Dave could have the Secret Service throw out the White House window." But the list does include a number of well-reasoned arguments that clearly give Letterman an edge over Al Gore and George W. Bush. Our favorite: "Finally, we could have a State of the Union address that the nation will actually listen to." [www.mindspring.com/ ~afounta/dave/list.htm]

MOST INFORMA-

TIVE Comedy Central: The Daily Show with Jon Stewart "The most important television program ever" continues its four-nights-a-week current-

(Looking for DVDs? Santa referred you to us.)



d over)

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WebGuide ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS



ACID FLASHBACK: Mohy Grane makes a slight return.

events parody with a page that mocks a typical news site, its original online "reporting" ranges from business to sports. Watch clips of such intrepid correspondents as John Bloom, then test your skills by playing the Correspondent's Course, Daily Show fans can find out how to buy tickets or submit a video, and are sure to enjoy the informative FAQ (damn, Beth Littleford isn't single anymore!). [www. comedycentral.com/dailyshow]

MOST INTERACTIVE

Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher Given the nature of Maher's show-lively repartee that sometimes turns into a verbal free-forall-it's fitting that the show's Web site is so interactive. Voice your opinion on recent topics, read the best of other viewers' responses, or vote in polls whose results are shown on the air. The page also lets you send e-mail to any senator, vote for which panelists should discuss what topics, and play such online games as PI's Political Ping Pong and Match a Mistress. [abc.go.com/pi] -PAUL SEMEL

MUSIC

Psychedelia

THE ENPSYCHLOPEDIA

Delerium's Psychedelic Web of Sound Psychedelic and garage bands from the '60s simply will not die-thanks in large part to such compilation albums as the Nuggets series, which Rhino Records recently issued as a boxed set, Produced by the Brit indie label Delerium Records.

Psychedelic Web features a database that is full of information about every fuzzed-out U.S. and U.K. band vou've ever heard of-or haven't. Paraffin Jack Flash Ltd., anvone? Discographies, lineups, and historical information about even the most obscure groups make this a valuable resource for any psychedelic researcher. [www.delerium.co.uk]

WAY OUT The Captain Beefheart Radar Station There were plenty of "out there" bands in the late '60s, but Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band really meant it. Trout Mask Replica remains one of the strangest albums ever recorded, and the recently released Grow Fins boxed set of Beefheart rarities should cement the hand's place in the Weirdness Hall of Fame. The Radar Station, an impressively organized archive, contains links to many other Beefheart fan sites. [www.beefheart.com]

HIT PARADE www. electricprunes.com Besides a groovy name, the Electric Prunes had a couple of hit songs, including the otherworldly "I Had Too Much to Dream (Last Night)." They went on to record the classic Mass in F Minor, a religious concept album that fused rock with orchestral instrumentation-sung entirely in Latin! Browse a detailed history of the band (believe it or not, a young Kenny Loggins was in the group for a while) and reports on what the band members are doing today. [www.electricprunes.com]

PURPLE HAZE The Official Moby Grape Home Page San Francisco's Moby Grape was plagued by misfortunes that kept the band from the widespread recognition that other artists from the area achieved, But the Grape's legacy is slowly becoming recognized. Tom Waits, Robert Plant, and other artists recently honored the band's resident eccentric. Alexander "Skin" Spence, with the tribute album More Oar. Awash in glorious purple (what else?), the site provides a heap of historical information, an extensive collection of lyrics, and a gallery of mind-bending concert posters. [www.mobygrape.com]

ACID DEALERS Sundazed

Music Sundazed reissued Skip Spence's brilliant solo outing, Oar. and the label continues to turn musical artifacts from the '60s into

nicely packaged, remastered CDs. In addition to psychedelia, the catalog contains all the obscure surf, hot-rod, and rockabilly titles your heart could desire, as well as a selection of amusingly obsessive fanzines, [www.sundazed.com]

-KEVIN DELANEY

SPORTS

Football Fan Sites

THE CHAMPS Gridiron

Grumblings Advertising "as much attitude as you can handle." Gridiron Grumblings is a fan-run NFL e-zine that manages to combine the subjective fervor of the football fanatic with the objectivity of good sports

GUEST GUIDE BY DAVID POLAND

Movie Surfing

riting a daily flow of information

THE TRADES

HOLLYWOOD

REPORTER (1910) SI the stand. VARIETY midnight PST [www. hollywoodreporter. com] [www. variety.com]

PAPERS OF RECORD THE NEW YORK TIMES THE WALL STREET JOURNAL I fer



[www.nytimes.com] [interactive.wsj.com]

GOSSIP OF RECORD

CINESCAPE ONLINE floes a great

[www.cinescape.com] GOSSIP OFF-RECORD

stop by he. AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

de . There is gold in that that site—though juicy tidbit [www. aint-it-cool-news.com]

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[www.roughcut.com]

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So strap on a helmet and grab your water we get last season's gear and knock

20% to 90% off the retail price. And with

Name brand sporting goods at closeout prices.

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journalism. Whether discussing why the Colts might surprise everybody or analyzing last year's stats to predict who will dominate this season, the contributors write with insight and wit—qualities sometimes lacking on the major sports hubs. The site is also an invaluable resource for fantasy football leagues. [www.gridirongrumblings.com]

GO, TEAM, GO! The Frozen Tundra There is an entire universe of fan sites devoted to individual teams. So why single out one of many Green Bay Packers outposts? Maybe it's the beautifully designed, easy-to-navigate pages. Or the well-written news reports. Or the database of bars around the country at which you can watch Packers games. And, hey, if you're a 49ers fan, we're sure there's something out there for you, too. [www.thefrozentundra.com]

HERO WORSHIP Read the Latest News about Dan Dan Marino has been in the NFL since



TEAM SPIRIT: A self-proclaimed Cheesehead cheers the Packers.

1983, and every season he's supposed to win a Super Bowl ring but doesn't. That hasn't stopped him from attracting legions of fans, though. Find out more about the veteran Miami Dolphins quarterback than you could possibly ever want to know, including where he's signing autographs tomorrow.

[members.aol.com/Porpoisel3/news.html]

SORE LOSERS The Official Anti-Arizona Cardinals Page Created by a Dallas Cowboys supporter to mock his team's NFC East rivals, this site gloats about the Arizonans' off-season woes, urges you to vote "No" on the new stadium, and offers a fake "Crudinals" theme song. But watch what happens if the Cardinals beat the Cowboys, as they did in the playoffs last season, prompting bitter tirades against the referees.

[geocities.com/Heartland/Cottage/

VIDEO BUFFS Fans4replay. com If you're a football fan, chances are you've got an opinion about the recently reactivated officiating device. Sound off on the message boards, sign a petition, or learn about blown calls that might have been reversed by rewinding the videotape. [www.

POP CULTURE

Spite Sites

fans4replay.com]

2957/antic.html]

MUPPETS FROM HELL

Bert Is Evil Any spite site worth its salt-in-the-wound owes a debt to the two-year-old Bert Is Evil! With photos and interviews, the page exposes the cone-headed Sesame Street Muppet for the strip-club-loving, JFK-assassinating, KKK-sympathizing, Kevin Costner-associating bastard that he is. [plaza.v-wave.com/bert]

JESTERS FROM HELL

The Anti-Clown Page Thanks in part to John Wayne Gacy, almost everyone hates clowns, and this page does a fine job of exposing their unfunny brand of evil. Check out pictures of demonic jesters, articles about bad bozos and the people who hate them, and links to other anti-clown sites. Best of all are "The Top 18 Signs You've Hired the Wrong Clown for Your Child's Party," such as "Wears a T-shirt that says, 'Drug-

BAD BOZOS: Tim Curry as the demonic Pennywise in It. free since March!" [geocities.com/ Colossum/2430/clown.html]

TEENYBOPPER FROM

HELL Bite Me, Britney She's so cute and bubbly! How could anyone despise pop singer Britney Spears? Well, as the near-dozen "I hate Britney" sites prove, there are many reasons. Want to hear how badly she sings, or giggle at some jokes about the '90s answer to Debbie Gibson? This site has those options, along with pictures in which she doesn't look as cute as a (belly) button. [geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Show/7540/main.html]

FURBALLS FROM HELL

All Squirrels Must Die! Apparently erected by someone who has a problem with suburban rodents, the Squirrel Defamation League's site offers such rabble-rousing essays as "Squirrels: Downfall of Mankind," "Squirrels: Cute Critters or Harbingers of the Apocalypse?" and "Nutkin, a Modern Day Hitler." Plus, the league sells T-shirts, so you can display your own antipathy toward the little creatures. [www.deadsquirrel.com]

TODDLERS FROM HELL

Teletubbies Are the Children of Satan! Are the Teletubbies just annoying, or are they Lucifer's spawn? This site makes a good case for the latter theory by presenting documents that chronicle their evil ways. Beyond the mug shot of Po taken after he was involved in a high-speed chase, the page provides signs your child might be possessed by the devil ("Giggling for no reason at all," "Decides to become a lawyer"). [geocities.com/Area51/Zone/5444/teletubbies] —P.S.





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:// WebGuide | HEALTH & FITNESS

DOCTOR ON CALL BY DR. CHARLES COOPER



Help for Surgery Patients

Going under the knife can be scary. But it's easier to face when you learn what to expect by researching procedures on the Net

Even the most routine operations can cause undue anxiety. Despite my reassurances that today's surgical and anesthesia techniques are far safer than in years past, patients often remain afraid of waking up with unforeseen complications—or of not waking up at all. One of the best ways to allay such fears is to become educated about a potential procedure. Fortunately, plenty of information is available on the Web.

Before agreeing to surgery, a patient should ask about possible alternatives, risks and benefits, the surgeon's qualifications, and other important issues. BE INFORMED: QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE YOU HAVE SURGERY [www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/surgery.htm] is an excellent checklist compiled by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research.

For more-detailed information about precise procedures, visit the **WELLNESSWEB**: **SURGERY CENTER** [www.wellweb.com/surgery_center.htm], which provides fantastic QuickTime video tutorials on 10 different operations, with more to

come. YOURSURGERY.COM uses diagrams and animation to help explain typical procedures, and offers information about X-ray findings. For less-common operations, check the extensive links to surgical sites found at YAHOO! SURGERY [yahoo.com/Health/Medicine/Surgery] and ABOUT.COM: SURGERY [surgery.about.com].

In this age of big business and managed care, it pays to be an educated consumer—especially before you go "under the knife." With knowledge gleaned from the Net, patients can gain more control over their situations.

QUICK CLICKS: Want to research a new doctor or find another HMO? HEALTHGRADES.COM rates more than 5,000 hospitals and 400 health care plans nationwide, and lets you search a directory of more than 600,000 physicians...HEALTHWELL.COM, a new holistic hub, offers advice on everything from natural beauty care to investing in organic-

food companies.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Herbal Remedies

BEST PLACE TO START

HolisticOnLine Herbal Medicine Although many pharmaceuticals are derived from natural sources. most medical practitioners have virtually no training in the healing properties of plants, and typically shy away from them. It's not simply a case of prejudice: Administering powerful botanical medicines requires caution. Start your education with the site's Herbal Knowledgebase, which catalogs the therapeutic functions of "botanicals" across the globe, Peruse the Interaction Between Herbs. Foods, and Prescription and Overthe-Counter Drugs section, which considers possible complications and reactions in herbal treatment, with advice on specific combinations to avoid. [www.holisticonline.com/ w_herbalmed.htm]

SPEEDIEST SEARCH

Medicinal Herbs Online Wondering whether corn cockle would be just the ticket to rid your feet of those pesky calluses? A quick check of this site's alphabetical guide to herbs would warn you, "It could cause death or other serious consequences." Yikes! There's also a handy page on herbal preparations. [www.egregore.com]

DEEPEST DATABASE

Herb Research Foundation The nonprofit HRF acts as an educational bridge between modern medicine and the public's growing use of botanicals. Its Web site boasts enormous archives of research articles and "Greenpapers" from around the



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hether you're a trader on the floor or a forest ranger in Wyoming, just about everyone's interested in making money. E*TRADE® knows why you invest. That's why we give you the tools and research you need to make better investing decisions. E*TRADE® gives you everything from market insights that come directly off the street to Smart Alerts that help you keep tabs on your investments. We also work to give you the best investing experience possible by offering trades as low as \$4.95 with rebate, 24-hour customer service and after-hours trading so you can get a head start on the next trading day. For more information, visit etrade.com, all keyword: etrade or call us at 1-800-ETRADE-1.



:// WebGuide | HEALTH & FITNESS



TEST YOURSELF: The Web can help you determine how healthy you are.

world, as well as extensive links. Get breaking news about scientific studies and sound advice about safe treatments. [www.herbs.org]

FRIENDLIEST HANGOUT

Algy's Herb Page Framed by a charming "ve olde herbalist" design, Algy's homespun site offers some of the Web's most active and interesting discussions on herbal remedies. Join forums on medicinal uses, growing and harvesting, seed exchanges, favorite recipes, and more. [www.algy.com/herb]

ESSENTIALS

TOP MEDICAL **BOOKMARKS**

THE PATIENT'S GUIDE TO HEALTHCARE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

> [patientsguide.com] A great place to start.

MEDSCAPE

[www.medscape.com] The best peer-reviewed medical hub.

WEBMD

[webmd.com] One of the most extensive online medical libraries.

AMERICASDOCTOR.COM

[americasdoctor.com] Access physicians in live, private chat rooms 24 hours a day.

WELLNESSWEB

[wellnessweb.com] Bridges the gap between conventional medicine and alternative therapies.

MOST OUTSTANDING

IMAGES Southwest School of Botanical Medicine The Arizona-based institution provides in-depth technical manuals and flora checklists. But the real bonanza is the truly astounding archive of images; thousands of representations of medicinal plants and herbs, from elegant turn-of-the-century lithographs and pen-and-ink drawings to contemporary photographs. [chili. rt66.com/hrbmoore/homepage]

-CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

FITNESS

Weight Lifting

HARD SCIENCE www.

DrSquat.com The doctor is in. and he can squat I.012 pounds! Dr. Frederick C. Hatfield has compiled all sorts of super technical information about such topics as mitochondrial proliferation and tissue leverage. The glossary is so comprehensive that all your gym buddies will be convinced you have a Ph.D.-and they'll be on the right track. Those thoracic cavity expansion exercises may actually be allowing more blood to flow to your brain. [www.drsquat.com]

LIFTING (O) Fitness Pros BodyBuilding If weight lifting is only one part of your fitness routine, this site's great advice on stretching, visualization, proper form, and supplements makes it a good starting place for beginners. Busy fitness enthusiasts will also

appreciate links to a food calculator and daily motivational advice. [www.fitnesspros.com]

GROUP THERAPY

WeightsNet Since 1990, this site has provided forums for the weight-lifting community. Discuss overtraining, pyramiding, supplements, and secret weapons designed to guarantee that no one will ever kick sand in your face. You also can find a hookstore, a television guide, and fitness-related calculators that can help assess when you're ready to enter the World's Strongest Man competition. [www.weightsnet.com]

MAXED OUT Absolute **Truth Hardcore Bodybuilding** If you can lift a Steinway in each hand or regularly wear Depends undergarments in the gym because you overexert yourself, you can handle the Absolute Truth. Advanced training regimens and reports on controversial topics such as cycles and growth hormones are designed to ensure you resemble a Marvel comic superhero in no time. [members. tripod.com/~absolutetruth]

WORDS OF WISDOM

Master Trainer Tired of muscle magazines directed at twentysomethings who don't understand that heavy lifting can nurture personal growth? Master Trainer has numerous articles that contain sound practical advice for gym rats of all ages.



Joe Weider might even learn a thing or two, [www.ageless-athletes.com] -NITO GAN

HEALTH

Health Evaluators

IN-DEPTH REPORT

iVillage: allHealth.com When you visit this site, have your medical records handy. Any health assessment test is only as accurate as the answers you provide, and this one demands pages of them. The confidential results start with your Health Quotient, a score that rates your state of wellness from 0 (finalize your will now) to 200 (expect birthday wishes from Willard Scott). Your disease risks, nutrition and fitness status, and improvement strategies are then discussed in detail. The unique format features helpful margin notes alongside relevant sections in your report. [www.allhealth.com]

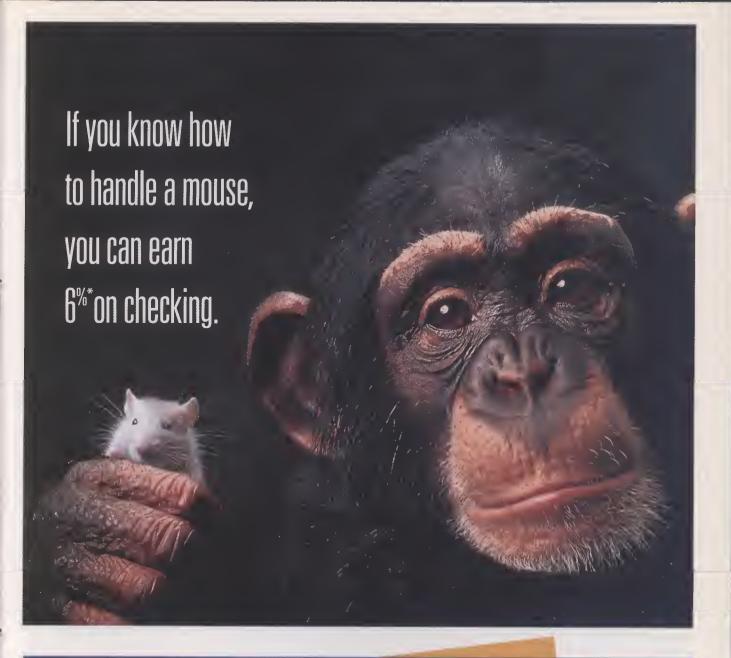
THE RIG PICTURE Health-

Central: HealthView This site's Lifeview test can estimate, based on health habits and age, both your current life expectancy plus the number of years you can expect to add if you clean up your act. A graph illustrates your chances of dying from various diseases, as well as other unfortunate circumstances such as homicide or alcohol toxicity. On a more cheerful note, you also get a review of your good habits, advice for rectifying the bad, and links to sites with news about your specific health concerns. [www.healthcentral.com/ healthview/healthview.cfm]

QUICK FIX Thriveonline:

Medical No time? No idea what your vital statistics are? Thriveonline's Health Risk Quiz skips the annoying membership registration process, as well as questions about blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Instead, you're asked qualitative questions, such as whether your doctor has ever mentioned a specific medical condition-not the most reliable indicator. but better than difficult queries left blank. The site also exposes health risks and links that can help reduce them. [thriveonline.com/medical]

-JOANNE CHEN



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THE HOME FRONT BY CHRISTY EPSTEIN



'Tis Better to Give

Feeling generous? The Web can help you volunteer your time

HANKSGIVING WILL SOON BE UPON US, along with numerous solicitations for charitable contributions. Many shopping sites already offer consumers the chance to feel virtuous by donating a small percentage of the profit from every sale to a good cause—a trend that undoubtedly will accelerate with the holiday rush. But even in the booming '90s, money isn't everything, and such public figures as Oprah Winfrey and Colin Powell have been waging a campaign for Americans to give of their time.

If you want to do more than just write a check, the Internet has consolidated volunteer opportunities like never before. Whether you're an adventurer or a nurturer, there is an organization out there that needs you. The options go well beyond teaching a senior citizen how to surf the Net, although there are plenty of nonprofit organizations that would love to have you do that.

For those who spend far too much time discovering the world on a 14-inch monitor, a volunteer vacation could be the answer. VOLUNTEERAMERICA! [volunteeramerica.com] provides dozens of outdoor service opportunities,

from rehabilitating trails in wilderness areas to studying humpback whales in Hawaii, and offers a state-by-state list of ongoing projects for the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies. If you believe charity begins at home, the Family Matters page at the POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION [pointsoflight.org] has designated November 20 as National Family Volunteer Day, and maintains a network of local clubs involved in year-round community activities.

To find an opening tailor-made for you, log on to VOLUNTEERMATCH [volunteermatch.com], where you can search through thousands of opportunities offered by nonprofits around the country in categories as diverse as disaster relief, computer support, and legal aid. When it comes to volunteering, every-

one has something to give.

QUICK CLICKS: Preschoolers can surf before they can type (or even read) at ALFY [alfy.com]. Aimed at three- to 10-year-olds, the new kids' portal lets you point-and-click on pictures that navigate a well-indexed universe of age-appropriate sites.

PERSONAL STYLE

Body Art

THE BIG PICTURE Body Modification Ezine Although belly-button rings and ankle tattoos might appear to be new fads. human beings have been manipulating their skin since before civilization began. Of course, primitive people didn't have access to the Internet, which is a great place to go to learn more before committing to piercing your tongue or getting a full back tattoo. A gateway for virgins and veterans alike, the Body Modification Ezine has pictures of all types of epidermal decoration, as well as texts that include medical information on aftercare. The site also delves into some extreme forms of physical modification, including multiple piercings, scarification, and implants (not the Pam Anderson kind), none of which is for the faint of heart. [bme.freeg.com]

TATTOO TUTORIAL

TattooCam! Given that some neonle swoon at the sight of blood. and that tattoos are applied by sticking needles into the skin, it's probably not uncommon to pass out while being inked. Are you afraid you might feel woozy while getting "Korn Rules" emblazoned on your butt? Stop by TattooCam!, where you can watch someone else getting spiked every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. There's no streaming

> video, but if you're worried about keeling over, an image that refreshes every 30 seconds



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Tro ical Reef	LCS-TR	LVS-TR	LWS-TR
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BOTTOMS UP! Use the Web to find the world's best watering holes.

could be just your speed. [www.magicnet.net/~tatthis/webcam/javacam.htm]

TEMPORARY ART The

Henna Page As cool as a tattoo might be, do you really think you're going to want the words "Korn Rules" on your backside when you're 65? Instead, you could make your declaration with a mehndi tattoo. The henna dves used in the traditional Middle Eastern process are not permanent, but they do last longer than the temporary tattoos you get from a box of Cracker Jacks. The informative Henna Page provides a history of the art form, dye recipes, application techniques, numerous links, a lengthy bibliography, and some warnings about what you should know before getting inked. [www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/~jr/henna]

DID IT HURT? Christiaan's Piercing Page If you've ever had a piercing in a place where everyone can see it, you've known the joy of having to explain it to people over and over again. Christiaan's Stupid Questions section has a number of snappy comebacks to such insipid inquiries as, "Is that real?" ("No, it came in a box of Crunch Berries"); "Did it hurt?" ("Not after the pain went away"); and "Why did you do it?" ("It keeps demons from crawling into my ears"). Also on site: a well-written essay on pain, and a fine selection of body art links. [net.indra.com/~vanwoude/Piercing.html]

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME TSD If the sight of a nipple ring gives you the shivers. you probably should bypass this site. TSD stands for "traumatic stress discipline," an extreme form of body suspension practiced by a coast-to-coast collective of performance artists at galleries, clubs, and tribal events such as the annual Burning Man festival in the Mojave Desert. Photos of past suspensions graphically illustrate the process, which involves lifting a person with ropes connected by hooks through the skin. Browse information about riggings and positions, and be sure to read the warning page before you run off to join the show. Potential post-suspension symptoms include bruising, numbness, shock, and seizures. [www.suspension.org]

-PAUL SEMEL

FOOD & DRINK

Bar Guides

WHERE TO START
PubCrawler Looking for the

perfect pint of porter in Kentucky or yummy pub grub in Idaho? A heady brew of information and interactivity, PubCrawler includes nearly 3.600 microbreweries. brewpubs, and beer bars throughout the U.S. and Canada, with more than I3.600 reviews submitted by beer-loving visitors. Search for a bar by city, state, ZIP code, area code, or name, and see how it fares in the categories of beer quality and selection, food, and service. The site is updated daily and has easy-to-use forms to submit your own ratings, so it's probably your fault if you can't find a report on your favorite hangout. [www.pubcrawler.com]

STRAIGHT UP The Global Hangover Guide Splitting our planet into six Booze Zones, this site is less a morningafter first-aid stop than a road the Cheers in Stockholm is a great

map to help you find alcohol to begin with—and in such far-flung destinations as Malta, Grenada, and Thailand. The Berlin-based Webmasters have it right: "Life is too precious and short to waste it searching for a cool watering hole." [www.hangoverguide.com]

FIELD TESTS The WSC Football Pub Guide Produced by the U.K.-based soccer magazine When Saturday Comes, the WSC guide emphasizes London and its environs, with the colloquialisms to match. Still, patrons rate bars from Osaka to Oslo on beer quality and price, clientele, television screen, amount of intrusive music/fights/entertainers, and, most important, whether it's a lucky pub for your team. How else would you know that

EXPERT OPINION BY CHRISTY EPSTEIN

Chocoholics of the World, Unite!

guilt-free holiday indulgence, recent studies have shown that chocolate is actually good for you. Before the next report comes out to quell the euphoria, we asked Xuan Trinh, U.S. manager for Event International's annual Chocolate

26-29, hraw York City), to share her personal bookmarks

THE CHOCOLATE

alliance's searchable directory of 7,900 retailers makes it easy to satisfy your cravin in all 50 states [www. chocolate-alliance. THE ULTIMATE CHOCOLATE FORUM

Join a chocolate lovers' club, read nutrition reports, browse recipes, or check the Chocolate Humor Page to find out why chocolate is better than sex (if you don't aiready know) [www. panoramic.net/ chocolate]



JACQUES TORRES
The official site of
Le Cirque 2000's
renowned pastry
chef provides
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in the Using Chocolate section. When
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IVM. [www.
lacquestorres.com]



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SUPPORT GROUP: A panel of five advises the lovelorn at Love and Learn.

place to catch Manchester United in action? [www.wsc.co.uk/wsc/ publist.html]

OKOLE MALUNA The Tiki Bar Review Pages! Chicagoan James A. Teitelbaum discovers the retro remnants of Polynesian pop in North America. often recounting anecdotal adventures as he rates bars on his Tipsy (tikis per square yard) scale. The site also serves up a swap meet for collectors, a glossary of

fame, and-sniff-tiki bar obituaries, [geocities.com/Tokvo/Fuii/ 2(85/tikimain.html]

HIGH SPIRITS The Helpful Edinburgh Pub Guide A cheerful, opinionated look at what's on tap in Scotland's capital. You're likely to feel as though you're on a pub crawl with the Helpful Brothers as they judge establishments based on "vigorous and exhaustive field testing" and provide advice on useful Hawaiian words, a hall of what to drink. Best of all, they

point out which barman gives the best abuse—a major plus. [wkwebl.cableinet.co.uk/sbooth] -KAREN WINTER

RELATIONSHIPS

Advice Columns

JURY OF PEERS Love and Learn Forget about learning to navigate the Web. What about learning to navigate the tangled web of human relationships? Fortunately, a plethora of free advice is available on the Net, and some of it is even worth contemplating, Take Love and Learn. where a panel of five opinionated "everyday" people-three women and two men-chime in on your quandaries regarding love, intimacy, or how to delicately "let him know you're not a bimbo." Your host is Mr. Sensitive, a college professor. The site's squiggly animations recall TV's Dr. Katz, as does Sensitive's soothing motto: "Nobody has all the answers, but we can all learn from each other's mistakes." [www. loveandlearn.com?

GENERATION Y Help Me

Harlan! Teens and twentysome-

things afflicted with relationship angst can turn to 26-year-old Harlan Cohen, a former Tonight Show intern and college newspaper columnist. Cohen's friendly mug. affectionately known as "Harlan's head," spins around on his site. setting the tone for help with a dose of humor. Juxtaposed against the politically correct boomers who dominate Web advice, his frank, offheat perspective is refreshing. In a recent column, he offered to dve a whining bridesmaid's shoes for her. if she sent him the pair, [www. helpmeharlan.com]

ING Marital Center: Real Life Drama If you fall into the "already knot-tied and committed-

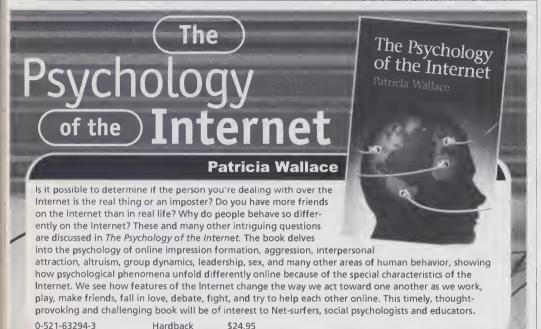
MARRIAGE COUNSEL-

for-life category," and are having post-wedding woes, try the heand-she team at this site. With a nurturing, holistic approach, Dr. Michael Tobin and Penny Winestock-both professional therapists with successful marriages of their own-address couples' concerns and give the distinct impression that they really care. "Keep in touch," Tobin writes to one troubled wife. Hev. those sentiments are hard to come byeven when you're spending \$95 a pop. [www.wholefamily.com/

maritalcenter]

WISDOM FROM THE AGES Miss Abigail's Time Warp Advice Those in search of a more whimsical approach to their problems are bound to appreciate Abigail Grotke's creation. Referencing her vast library of advice books, which date from 1822 to 1977, she responds to '90s dating and mating problems with nuggets from the past. Although bygone sages can't help you figure out if StudMuffin in the chat room really is a hunk, some advice is truly timeless. Here's how Female Beauty (1846) answers the age-old question "What should I wear to the senior prom?": "Many peculiarities must depend upon fashion; but still more upon the style of the figure." [www.missabigail.com]

-JENNY JEDEIKIN



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BRAIN WAVES BY MATT GOLDBERG



Clocking the Year 10000

A visionary group of futurists is ticking off the seconds until YIOK

ITH THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING possible Y2K calamities about to be resolved—for better or for worse—on January 1, some forward-looking thinkers have already latched onto a new chronological conundrum: What happens when we reach the year 10000? The cadre of futurists in the Long Now Foun-

dation includes cultural provocateur Stewart Brand, founder of the Whole Earth Catalog and THE WELL [well.com], along with musician Brian Eno and Danny Hillis, creator of the legendary Connection Machine supercomputer. Hillis, currently a Disney vice president, is largely responsible for dreaming up the foundation's defining mission: building a clock that will tell accurate time for the next 10,000 years.

THE LONG NOW FOUNDATION Web site [www. longnow.org contains pictures and diagrams of the clock's prototypes, which incorporate patentpending design innovations and such high-end materials as metallic glass and tungsten.

ABOVE: A developmental model of a clock designed to last 10,000 years. RIGHT: Camille Paglia.

As outlined in writings by Hillis and Brand, the clock's purpose is simple but powerful. By focusing on such a distant future, we experience what the Long Now folks call "deep time": a state of mind not unlike that of the architects who designed Europe's medieval cathedrals, monuments to eternity they knew they would never see finished in their lifetimes. The hope is that projects such as the clock, along with its proposed companion library, will help nudge contemporary society out of the constrainedtime sensibility that governs today's burgeoning Internet economy.

The foundation advocates adopting a new calendaring convention in which the year 1999 would read "01999." Such a system would forestall by millennia the potential for a Y10K bug, and might also make us rethink our collective future. Contemplating that extra zero, one can't help but wonder if this whole thing called civilization isn't just getting

off the ground.

ARTS & CULTURE

Literary Magazines

REST ONLINE JOURNAL

Salon.com The Web's premier daily journal of arts, literature, and the world at large boasts a slew of marquee names, Minnesota Public Radio's Garrison Keillor advises the lovelorn. Postfeminist gadfly Camille Paglia often stirs things up. Guest writers such as David Foster Wallace weigh in with book reviews. The magazine's feisty political coverage is always worth reading, as is the irreverent technology page. To join in the obiter dicta, try the Table Talk forums. [www.salon.com]

TOP DIGITAL PRINT MAG

Atlantic Unbound It's nice to get free access to fiction and poetry from the pages of The Atlantic Monthly, but the venerable print magazine's Web site does more than just recycle content. Each week brings a fresh batch of Web-only articles, as well as interviews with such established novelists as F. Annie Prouly and Mary Gordon, There's also a terrific searchable archive, where you can retrieve the magazine's original reviews of such classic books as Lolita (1958) and The Scarlet Letter (1886). [www.theatlantic.com]

MOST LITERATE LINKS

Web Del Sol Sol, the star, bombards the Earth with light. Web Del Sol bombards the Net

> with what its editors call "a literary event at once in a continuous state of birthing and crescendo." We just call it a hot place to start surfing. Links from

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GREEN POWER: Young eco-activists learn about our planet on the Web.

WDS radiate in all directions. You could start reading Seamus Heaney's review of Ted Hughes's last book and end up listening to RealAudio NPR reports. [www.webdelsol.com]

educators, and the

TOP POP CULTURALISTS

Feed Now, here's a magazine that thrives on the collision of the literate with the lowbrow. The long-running Bottomfeeders series presents an inside look at strange, pseudoartsy careers, from Hollywood awards-show escort to reader of erotic manuscripts. A recent issue ruminated on the status of the American sentence, and a provocative essay is always somewhere on the plate. [www.feedmag.com]

THE NEXT WAVE Pif With writers-only classifieds and regular fiction and poetry contests, Pif targets hungry scribes eager for the chance to submit original work. But anyone who might appreciate how an obscure Lou Reed song could inspire a several-thousand-word essay is likely to enjoy spending time here. The site devotes a section to underground zines that just might give established mags a run for their money someday. [www.pifmagazine.com]

-BRIAN VAN DYKE

ENVIRONMENT

Eco-Activism

TOUGHEST KIDS ON THE BLOCK Greenpeace.org It's a big world, and somebody's got to watch it. Greenpeace keeps a vigilant eye on the globe's environmental problems, and its Web site is equally uncompromising. Watch Webcasts of ongoing missions, such as a trip to the Arctic to study the impact of climate change. Or get personally involved: You can help save whales and coral reefs, combat global warming, or help preserve ancient forests, right from your computer. [www.greenpeace.org]

GREENEST COMMUNITY

EnviroLink Are you furious over animal testing? Scared about genet-

ic engineering? Express yourself in real-time chats and forums. The Web's most comprehensive ecocommunity also tracks green-friendly stocks and industries in its Sustainable Business Network; reports the latest environmental calamities and victories; alerts visitors to upcoming actions; and is chock-full of educational resources, including tips for creating an ecofriendly home. [www.envirolink.org]

ELDER STATESMEN Sier-

ra Club When that grizzly-bearded naturalist, John Muir, founded the Sierra Club in 1892 to "do something for wildness and make the mountains glad," he never suspected that eco-activism would one day explode on the Internet. But he'd probably be happy to know that electronic communication is replacing paper. An outstanding new feature on the Sierra site is VoteWatch, where you can see how your congressional representatives voted on such issues as the disposal of toxic waste on public lands. [www.sierraclub.org]

GREAT FOR KIDS National

Wildlife Federation; Rainforest Action Network Teaching children to respect the environment is one of the best ways to ensure the planet's biodiversity. NWF's Kid's Page! uses fun games such as Mad Libz to spotlight endangered species, and offers Cool Tours of shrinking habitats. RAN's colorful Kids' Corner is packed with pictures of, and information about, the humans and other creatures in the Earth's rapidly disappearing rain forests. [www.nwf.org/kids]; [www.ran.org]

ACTIVIST ADVENTURES

Earthwatch Institute Would you like to observe elephants in Africa, monitor songbirds in Hungary, or build solar ovens in Indonesia? Earthwatch offers the chance to travel to more than 100 exotic destinations, where small teams of regular folks assist environmental scientists and researchers. Fees, which vary by project, are tax-deductible for U.S. citizens. [www.earthwatch.org]

ECOWATCHDOGS ENVI-

RONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND
Check out the site's detailed Scorecard to find out which corporations
are releasing pollutants into your
community and what those chemicals are. Also learn how you can
contribute to a healthy environment—from buying green electricity to lowering your car's emissions.
[www.edf.org] —ANN FARMER

GUEST GUIDE BY RALPH WARNER

Legal Power to the People

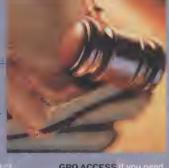
ome of us can't afford to hire an afford to hire an afformey every time we have a rounne legal question. To fill the information void, back in 1971, I cofounded Noio Press. We inked a lot of lawyers by publishing plain-English explanations of the law that people could use to handle day-to-day legal tasks. Fast forward to the 1990s, when we include the law that have new and became NOLO.COM. Now consumers have instant access to the information and for their back in the law need to handle their back in the law to handle their back.

Revend rife ching Note com's extensive self-help resources, you can also get legal aid at these sites:

FINOLAW For in-depth study of laws and court decisions, FindLaw is the Web's best free research site. Instead of trekking to your county law library, you can search a massive and massive and research are of federal and state statutes and cases. There's also a whole array of government links and legal news. [findlaw.com]

THOMAS: LEGISLATIVE
INFORMATION
ON THE INTERNET Interested
in a bill that has

law? In the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, this federal site offers a weakin of legislauve information. Study the text of pendin, Flouse and Senate bills, see how your senator or representative voted on particular usuus and find out what's happening in congressional committees. [thomas loc gov]



GPO ACCESS If you need to 1.3.1 down a federal regulation, this is the place to come. Search more than 1,350 U.S. government sites by keyword You can also download more than 7,500 files from federal agencies, which provide immediate access to official info.

[www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs]

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OTHER BANKS AND US?



THE DREADED ASTERISK.

Haw can such a small natatian hide such vital infarmatian as "\$10,000 minimum balance required" and "balances belaw \$999 result in .50% interest"? Beats us. Ours just says yau have ta apen an accaunt with a minimum depasit af \$100 ta earn up ta 4 times the average interest af ather checking accaunts. And we almost didn't even need a lawyer ta write that.

So, why aren't you NetBanking?[™]





:// WebGuide | TRAVEL & RECREATION

GETAWAY GURU BY DINA GAN



Flying High in Low Season

Off-peak travel offers the year's best bargains

UMMER'S LONG GONE, AND THE HOLIDAY crunch is yet to come. What better time to embark on a minivacation? We've got a few suggestions. **B** Europe: Low season runs from November to mid-December, then continues after the holidays through the end of March. GO-TODAY.COM offers winter specials to London and Paris [www.europevacations.com]; seven days and six nights, including air and hotel, start at \$499 per person. As for the sunnier south, "Greek beaches are yours off-season," notes Rick Steves, author of the Europe Through the Back Door series, who provides a lively overview of highlights throughout the Continent at EUROPE OFF-SEASON [www.ricksteves. com/tips/198off.htm].

The Caribbean: Low season is mid-April to mid-December. Although much of that time overlaps with the June-to-October hurricane season, you can have a terrific tropical vacation if you travel after October, when resorts cost as much as 50 percent less and temperatures are a pleasant 70 to 80 degrees. CHANGES IN LATTITUDES [www.changes.com] specializes in

discounted Caribbean trips and is a good place to scout for deals.

Although no online entrepreneur had yet laid claim to Lowseasontravel.com or its equivalents at press time, several sites do track off-season rates. SMARTER LIVING DEAL ALERT! [www. smarterliving.com/deal_alert] and ARTHUR FROMMER'S BUDGETTRAVEL ONLINE: HOTTEST BARGAINS [www.frommers.com/hottest/package] often offer luxury destinations that might be too pricey at peak times. A good source for reducedrate lodging is HOTEL DISCOUNTS [www. hoteldiscount.com]. Just don't expect to find any bargains for the 1999 holiday season. Prices are bound to be the highest they've been in 2,000 years.

QUICK CLICKS: Check Delta Airlines' new site, DELTA VACATIONS [www. deltavacations.com], for Internetonly deals on packages VACATION DIRECT [www. vacationdirect.com] connects you with the owners of

resort homes in eight coun-

tries and more than 24 states.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Ski Vacations

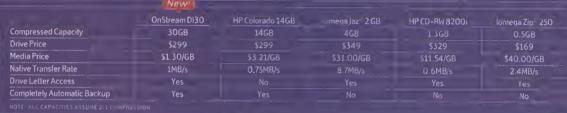
ONE-STOP PLANNER

SkiNet.com Winter, spring, summer, or fall, SkiNet can help you plan your trip to the slopes. And there's no time like the present. Get wind of the latest package deals, browse Ski magazine's ton 60 North American resorts, or mine the Resort Database for information on more than 800 ski areas worldwide. Search by name. location, or amenities such as night skiing, sleigh rides, and onstaff massage therapists. Use the SnowFinder to get powder reports from around the globe, updated three times a day. Need equipment? Use the interactive buyer's guide to help you choose the best boots and skis for your needs. [www.skinet.com]

FIND A SKI PARTNER

Ski Meet If you're the sole skier among your circle of friends, this service can help you find a snow buddy. Search the database of potential partners by gender or by the resort at which they plan to be. User profiles include all the pertinent details, including hometowns, skiing ability, and whether they'd be interested in an off-slope relationship or seek a strictly platonic cohort. You can list yourself on the site for free, but if you want to make a date or communicate with a user via anonymous e-mail. vou'll have to pay the \$14.95 membership fee. [www.skimeet.com]







Buy it for backup. Use it for everything.

Finally, a drive that offers it all: From completely automatic backup to the ability convenience of removable storage. The OnStream 30GB Removable Storage Drive is the perfect backup solution for power desktops and workstations. To find out more call 1-800-759-4621

Recording the Digital Age."





















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ESSENTIALS

TRAVEL TIPS & TOOLS

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

[travel.state.gov]
The official word on passports,
visas, and travel advisories.

CDC TRAVEL INFORMATION

[www.cdc.gov/travet] What vaccinations to get before you leave and how to avoid diseases while abroad.

WEATHER.COM

[www.weather.com]
Should you pack that heavy
sweater or not? Enter a city or
ZIP code and find out.

MAPQUEST

[www.mapquest.com]
Get maps of major cities
worldwide or driving directions for North America and
Great Britain.

THE "FULL" UNIVERSAL CURRENCY CONVERTER

[www.xe.net/ucc/full.shtml] Calculate exchange rates for 180 currencies. with links to English-speaking private instructors. The site is also a ski school of sorts, with technical tips for beginners and experts alike. [www.ski-schoolnet.com]

BOOK A SKI PACKAGE

Snow-Pak Online Want a quick, convenient way to book a ski trip? Here you can order free brochures and request quotes via e-mail from tour operators in North and South America, Europe, and New Zealand.

[www.snowpak.com] —D.G.

Hunting

HUNTERS' HUB Field &

Stream/Outdoor Life The Web site for the popular magazines has much to offer the recreational hunting enthusiast, including a gun guide, game finders, and dozens of RealAudio tips on everything from stalking an elk to mounting a scope. The Destinations section offers a series of affordable trips tracking South Carolina doves, New Mexican antelope, and other furred and feathered species. The site also has weather information, tide charts, and a manual on buying, leasing, or

mits, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has compiled a handy set of links to official agencies for every state and Canadian province. Most of them are well-designed and refreshingly free of the redneck jokes found at other hunting sites. Many also include upto-date details on season dates, bag limits, hunter education courses, animal populations, and maps. [fa.r9.fws.gov/r9mat/zing/links.html]

LODGE LOCATOR ResortsandLodges.com: Hunting Lodges Find lodges, resorts, and safari camps that cater to hunters in North America and New Zealand. Details include links to the facilities' Web sites, and such information as whether kids and pets are welcome. [www.resortsandlodges. com/type/hut]

BIG-GAME GUIDES The Hunting Consortium Ltd. Imagine bringing home a Nepalese blue sheep, Russian brown bear, or Tanzanian buffalo. The multinational consortium arranges all the details for your trip, including lodging, licenses, insurance, and export permits for your trophy. The agency offers more than 700 hunts in 40 countries. [www.huntcon.com] —D.G.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Senior Travel

SENIOR SHORTLIST

Yahoo! Seniors' Guide: Travel Ever wish you had a fast-loading page summarizing all those far-flung sites with information on airline and hotel discounts, cruise trips, tour agencies, and senior-specific travel? This is it. You also can find links to directions, news, destination guides, and advice. [seniors.yahoo.com/seniors/travel]

EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Elderhostel For folks age 55 and older, the innovative Elderhostel combines education with travel in dozens of programs spanning the U.S., Canada, and many other countries. Browse the online catalogs for edifying adventures. You might assist archaeologists in uncovering Mayan culture in Belize, or study wildlife in the Scot-

tish Highlands. Closer to home, seniors can visit the caves of Carter County, Kentucky, or travel along the Santa Fe Trail. Prices are reasonable. [www.elderhostel.org]



ON THE MOVE: Adventurous seniors have many options.

ACTIVE ADVENTURES

Club Senior Sports You've exercised and eaten well all your life. Now it's time to reap the rewards of staying fit in your golden years. How about joining a small group of energetic over-50s skiing in the Canadian Rockies, hiking in the Costa Rican jungle, or kayaking in South Carolina? Tours here go beyond biking through California wine country—although you can do that, too. The online reservation form is a plus. [www.clubseniorsports.com]

WISE ADVICE Senior-

Site.com: Travel Don't know the difference between an "American plan" and a "demi-pension"? The site's glossary of tour-package terminology can assure you that the latter has nothing to do with your retirement funds. You'll also find a guide to choosing a cruise, companion-finder services for solo seniors, and travel safety tips. [www.seniors-site.com/travel/travel_fr_index.htm]

DISCOUNT BIN About.com:
Budget Travel: Senior Travel
Bargains For the jet set of a certain
age, here's a concise article on finding the lowest airfares. A comparative price chart of senior coupon
books available from major airlines
includes links to their Web sites, as
well as toll-free phone numbers.
[budgettravel.about.com/library/
weekly/aa031999.htm] —D.G.



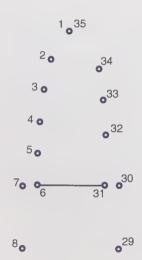
THE SPORTING LIFE: Target your next hunting trip on the Web.

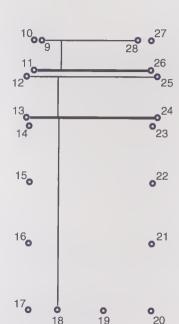
LEARN THE SLOPES Ski

Schoolnet What better way to learn how to ski than in a foreign resort where no one you know will see you fall on your behind? Access more than two dozen schools in France, New Zealand, Scotland, Argentina, and other countries, along

maintaining a field-friendly 4x4 truck. [www.fieldandstream.com]

RULES AND REGULA-TIONS Management Assistance Team: Links to State Agencies For information on how to obtain hunting licenses and per-





connecting...





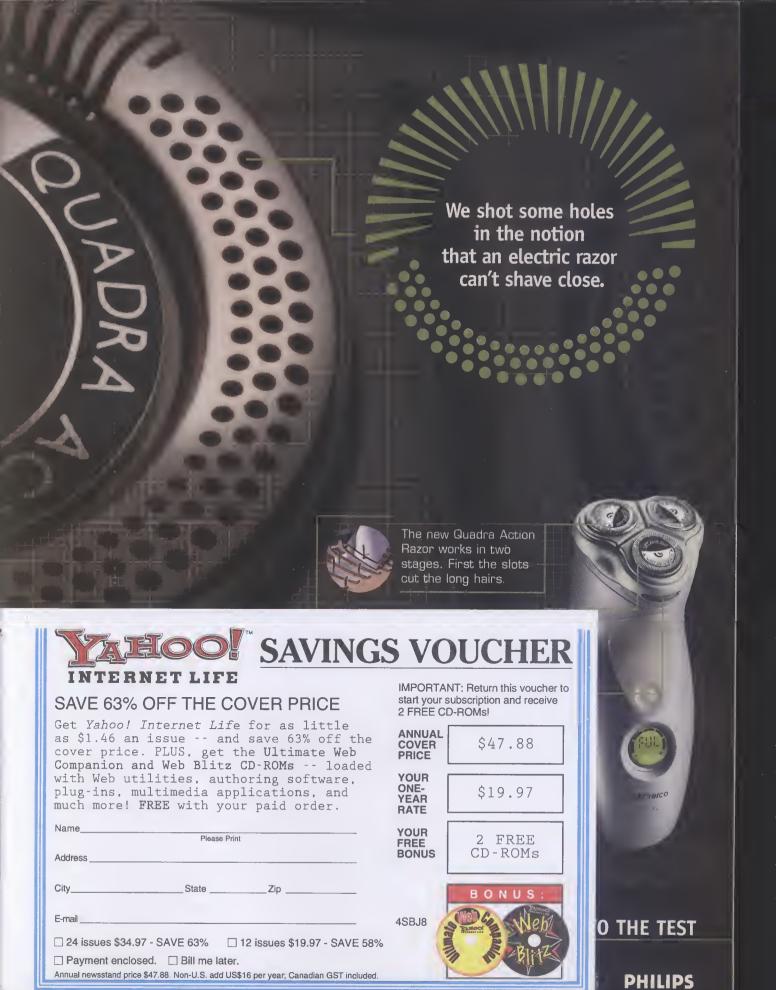
What will you do with your extra free time?

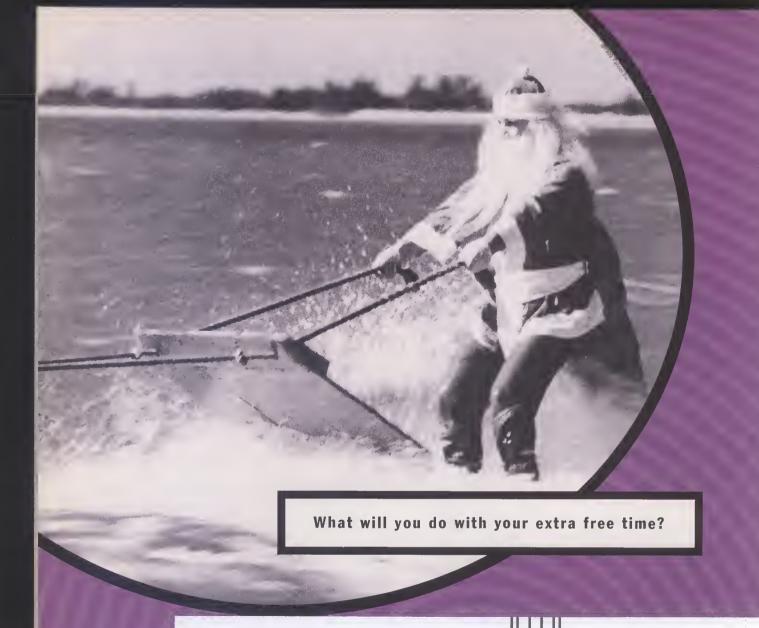
Yahoo! Shopping

Six thousand stores.

Open 24 hours. And everything gets delivered right to your door. Which gives you more time for the important stuff.

DOYOUO!





SPECIAL OFFER!



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 66 BOULDER, CO

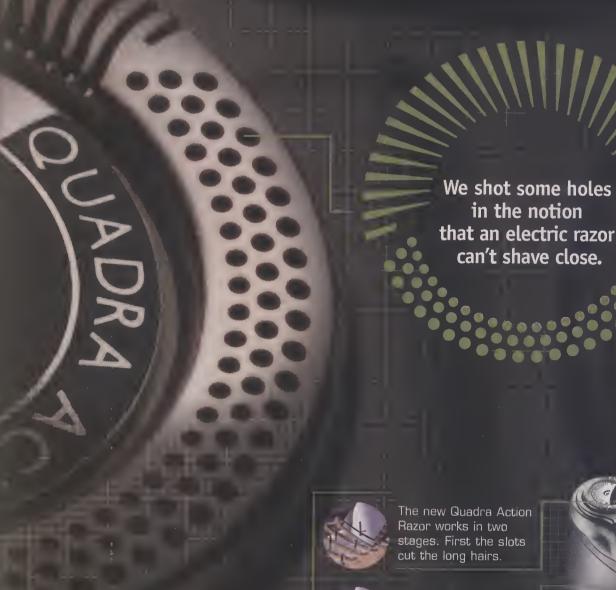
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Open 24 hours. A everything gets delered right to yo door. Which giv you more time fithe important stushopping.yahoo.c



PO Box 53381 Boulder, CO 80323-3381 NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES







Second, the Quadra Action holes cut the short stubble. The end result is our closest shave ever.



You can rinse and clean the entire head under water. How many other electrics can go for a dip?



It takes 21 days for your face to adjust to an electric razor. So give it time, it will be worth it.



The new Norelco Quadra Action Razor.

Put it to the test. If you're not totally impressed by its quick, close shave, without the nicks and cuts of blades, we'll give you your money back. Guaranteed.



PUT IT TO THE TEST



We've survived three woodstocks.

Not once. Not twice. But thrice. Ours was the sound that rocked the largest concerts of all time. And if we can do that, imagine what we could do in your living room. For more information, contact 1.800.336.4JBL or www.jbl.com.



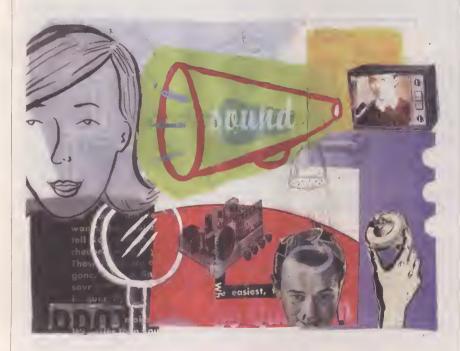


://webuser

HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME EDITED BY BOB BERNSTEIN

FIND

At powerful music-specific search engines, Web users can hunt down and download CD-quality sound files



ou've been humming a familiar tune in the shower. But frustratingly, you can't remember its title or the artist who sings it. Is it "Baby Got Back"? Or maybe "Santa Bring My Baby Back"?

Relax. As long as you know a few of the words to the song, you can attempt to track it down online. Start your search at **SCOUR.NET**, a powerful metasearch engine that queries such music repositories as **MP3.COM**, **EMUSIC.COM**, and **AMP3.COM**. Simply enter a keyword into the site's query field and click Search. The site will return a list of possible matches. Then, just click a result to begin downloading the tune to your PC. (Note: In some instances, Scour.net requires that you use its proprietary software, the Scour Media Agent, to transfer

files to your hard disk. You can download it for free at the site.)

If Scour.net fails to unearth the mystery tune, head to AUDIOFIND [www.audiofind.com] or TUNES.COM, two other excellent music search engines. Or go to some of the major search services, which boast mediaspecific capabilities. These include the ALTAVISTA PHOTO & MEDIA FINDER [image.altavista.com/cgi-bin/avncgi], HOTBOT: SUPERSEARCH [www.hotbot.com/super.html], and LYCOS PICTURES & SOUNDS [www.lycos.com/picturethis].

Finally, check in with the music newsgroups at **DEJA.COM** (e.g., **alt.music**) or the America Online chat rooms (Keyword: *Music*), where you can communicate with other music lovers and tap into the collective wisdom of the Web.

—**DINA GAN**

NEATNETTRICKS

BY JACK TEEMS

MAIL MERGE

Yes, I suffer from communications overload. I have voice mail, three e-mail accounts, and a fax line. Until recently, it was becoming impossible to manage them all. Then I found UREACH.COM, a Web-based service that bills itself as an "all-in-one free communications service provider." At no charge, uReach.com hands out both voice mail and e-mail accounts. From either account, users can send and receive voice mail, e-mail missives, and faxes. The service also lets users access voice mail, e-mail, and faxes from any Web browser. The service cannot, however, work with your existing phone, fax, or e-mail accounts.

TIME TRAVEL

There are many PC clock apps out there, but none of them keeps time like **ACTIVEEARTH. COM** This shareware shows you the hour of day in more than 500 cities worldwide. The software also tracks local lunar and solar data, such as moon phases. And what if your hometown isn't included in the program's city database? Create your own entry using ActiveEarth's "Add City Assistant." The shareware is free to try, and costs \$20 to buy.



WHISTLE BLOWER

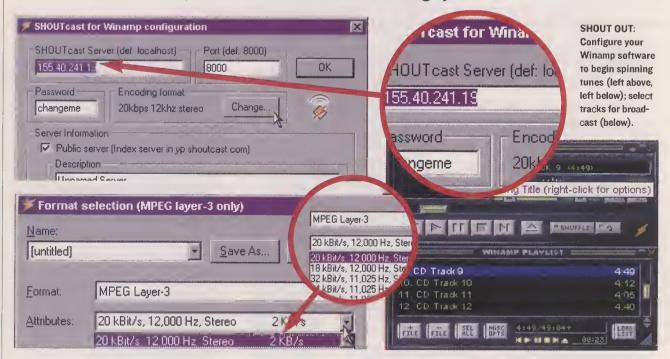
If you can't afford to have your site go down for even a second, you'll want to sign up for **NETWHISTLE.COM**. This free Web-based service contacts you immediately, via e-mail or pager, when your site isn't functioning.

JACK TEEMS IS KEEPER OF THE NEAT NET TRICKS WEB SITE [www.neatnettricks.com].

:// WebUser

LEARNIT

Transform your home computer into an Internet broadcasting system



OULD-BE DISC JOCKEYS ARE GOING TO LOVE SHOUTCAST. THIS new technology from Nullsoft (the makers of the popular Winamp MP3 player) lets you broadcast your music live over the Net. Its only shortcoming? On a 56Kbps connection, you can transmit music to only a few users at a time. Here's how it works:

.01 LISTENING IN

Before you can do anything with SHOUTcast, you must download a recent version of the Nullsoft MP3 player **WINAMP** [www.winamp.com].

After you've downloaded and installed the player on your computer, you can begin listening to live SHOUTcast streams. A directory of streams is available at the **SHOUTCAST** [www.shoutcast.com] Web site.

.UZ DOWNLOADING COMPONENTS

Now, you'll need to pick up a few more programs. At **SHOUTCAST DOWNLOAD** [www.shoutcast.com/download.html], click the "be a DJ" and "be a server" links. Download the following three files: 1) SHOUTcast DSP Plug-in for Winamp; 2) Microsoft NetShow; and 3) SHOUTcast WIN32 server.

After you've unzipped and installed these files (you should save them in a folder on your desktop), move the DSP Plug-in into Winamp's "Plugin" folder (e.g., c:\program files\winamp\plugins).

.03 CONFIGURING WINAMP

First, you need to obtain your IP number. To get it, click to [www.pagecount.com/software/tellip]. Write down your IP number.

Next, open Winamp and right-click on it. Select "Options," and then "Preferences." This will launch the "Nullsoft Winamp: Preferences" window. Click the Option tab. Under "Setup," select "Output," then highlight "Nullsoft DirectSound." Then, under "Setup," select "DSP/Effect." Highlight "SHOUTcast Source for Winamp."

Click the Configure button located at the bottom of the window. In the new window that launches, enter your IP number in the "SHOUTcast server" field. If you're connected to the Net at 56Kbps or slower, click the Change button. In the "Attributes" field, choose "20 kBit/s, 12,000Hz, Mono 2KB/s." Click OK.

In the "Nullsoft Winamp: Preferences" window, click Apply. Now, close Winamp.

.04 BROADCASTING YOUR MUSIC

Open the SHOUTcast server. If you're connected to the Net at 56Kbps or slower, click the "Edit Config" menu. This will open a Notepad document. Find the line that reads "MaxUser=32" and change it to read "MaxUser=2." Click the "File" menu and choose "Save." Close the server by clicking the "Kill Server" menu, and then reopen it.

Open Winamp again. Start playing MP3s. You're broadcasting music! To listen in, your friends must open Winamp, click [Ctrl + L], and enter your IP number. —TROY BROPHY

You'll find the lowest term life rates in America at Quotesmith.com or we'll overnight you \$500. More pleasant surprises now include instant automobile, family medical, group medical, Medicare supplement and dental insurance quotes from over 300 insurance companies!

\$250,000 Term Life Sampler Guaranteed Annual Premiums/Guaranteed Level Term Period

Female Premiums

Age	10	15	20	2 5	30
	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR
35	\$ 103	\$ 125	\$ 145	\$ 183	\$ 205
40	\$ 123	\$ 158	\$ 185	\$ 238	\$ 260
45	\$ 190	\$ 215	\$ 253	\$ 330	\$ 385
50	\$ 253	\$ 290	\$ 363	\$ 490	\$ 495
55	\$ 365	\$ 413	\$ 550	\$ 835	\$ 1,015
60	\$ 503	\$ 615	\$ 845	\$ 2,135	\$ 2,400
65	\$ 775	\$ 975	\$1,593	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
70	\$1,338	\$ 1,600	\$2,970	\$ 7,220	\$ 7,220
75	\$2,275	\$ 4,870	\$5,820	\$10,370	\$12,420

"Quotesmith provides a list of all insurance companies & plans that match specific needs.

The first to make available this new custom -search service." - Nation's Business

"Get quotes on the spot. New source for best buys in insurance. One way to get to know the market." - Kiplinger's Personal Finance

"Quotesmith.com provides rock-bottom quotes. - Forbes

Male Premiums

Age	10	15	20	2 5	30
	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR
35	\$ 123	\$ 138	\$ 165	\$ 223	\$ 253
40	\$ 148	\$ 183	\$ 225	\$ 288	\$ 335
45	\$ 225	\$ 300	\$ 360	\$ 450	\$ 513
50	\$ 338	\$ 455	\$ 525	\$ 743	\$ 828
55	\$ 500	\$ 670	\$ 768	\$ 1,640	\$ 2,330
60	\$ 783	\$ 990	\$1,335	\$ 3,630	\$ 3,630
65	\$1,330	\$ 1,650	\$2,693	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250
70	\$2,473	\$ 3,175	\$4,860	\$ 8,790	\$ 8,790
75	\$4,400	\$ 7,443	\$9,600	\$13,260	\$15,030

"Quotesmith keeps a database of about 350 insurance companies." - Good Housekeeping

"Quotesmith offers particularly thorough searches."
- Los Angeles Times

"Quotesmith will scan the insurers and provide a list of different policies suited to your needs." - Money

"This solution has value for those who value immediacy and privacy." - U.S. News & World Report

Quotesmith.com is the only place on earth where you can get instant insurance quotes from over 300 top-rated companies.

Search the marketplace in seconds. Every quote is guaranteed accurate. Take control of your insurance purchase decisions. View the latest claims-paying ability ratings from A.M. Best, Duff & Phelps, Moody's, Standard & Poor's



and Weiss Ratings, Inc. on every term life quote. Buy from the company of your choice online when you want and without having to talk to any insurance salesmen! Avoid buying mistakes and bad advice. Use the Quotesmith.com high speed insurance price comparison service before you buy or renew any insurance policy. It's lightning fast, easy and free.

Quotesmith.com

AD CODE: YAHOO 11/99

Final premiums and coverage availability will vary depending upon age, sex, state availability, hazardous activities, personal and family health history. The non-tobacco use premiums shown above may include: Banner Life Ins. Co., Rockville, MD, form RT-97; Empire General Life; Brimingham, AL, form TL-06; Jackson National Life, Lansingm MI, form L1665; First Penn-Pacific Life, Hoffman Estates, IL, form BT-1002AA(2-96), Control #B98-198(3/98); General Life, Edwardsville, IL, form 70006; Midland Life, Columbus, OH, form T376 & T678; Ohio National Life, Cincinnati, OH, form 92-TR-1; Old Line Life, Milwaukee, WI, form 80-RCT 79D; Old Republic Life Ins. Co., Chicago, IL, form 8-1077; Valley Forge/CNA, Chicago, IL, form V117-333-A Series; Premium rates shown are not applicable to residents of FL, NJ & NY. Policy forms vary by state. \$500 lowest price guarantee not available in SD and has specific terms and conditions detailed at www.,quotesmith.com. California and Utah dba Quotesmith.com Insurance Services: CA #0827712, #OA13858; UT #90093. Some premiums shown are graded premium life policies and/or term-like universal life policies. Term life premium rates always escalate after initial rate guarantee period.

WFRTONI ROX

Get the lowest prices on books. movies, music, and tovs with CLICKTHEBUTTON [www. clickthebutton.coml, a new comparative-shopping tool. This tiny 264K utility (which can be downloaded in 90 seconds with a 28.8Kbps modem) resides in your Windows system tray or Apple menu. While shopping for a product at an online store (such as Amazon.com), you simply click the button to retrieve a list of other merchants' prices for that same item.

Is your PC sluggish? Charge it up with RAMBOOSTER [www.saunalahti.fi/~borg/ rambooster], a free PC utility that monitors and frees up a computer's random-access memory.

Spam, be gone! Eliminate annoying junk e-mail messages with SPAMKILLER [www. spamkiller.com]. This powerful, customizable program can filter out messages by keyword, header, subject, and Web address. The PC software keeps a log of obliterated spam and can work with multiple e-mail accounts. The shareware is free to try, and \$30 to buy.

Do you find Web surfing to be a lonely experience? Let ODIGO [odigo.com] keep you company.



This free surfing companion lets you chat with other Odigo users, search for people with similar interests, post virtual notes to sites, and send instant messages. Of course, when you want a little quiet time online, you can always shut off Odigo with a single click.

TRYIT BY JIM LOUDERBACK

The colorful iBook is turning heads and raising eyebrows. But is the laptop powerful enough for computer enthusiasts?

USED TO LIKEN THE NOTEBOOK COMPUTER TO Henry Ford's Model T, because you could get it in any color you wanted as long as it was black. Then, a year ago, Apple released the iMac, a desktop. Its wildly popular design was a hit with consumers. Following in the iMac's footsteps is Apple's new iBook. The \$1,600 laptop ships in two exciting hues, tangerine and blueberry, and is poised to change the way computer manufacturers think about portable PCs.

When it comes to design, however, color is not the iBook's only distinguishing feature. It also has a rather unique shape. Some say it looks like a toilet seat. Others believe it resembles a Barbie handbag. Personally, I think it's cool, and I love its comfortable, rounded edges.

Of course, the iBook is more than just a handsome piece of hardware. The peppy laptop comes with a 300MHz G3 processor, 32MB of RAM (expandable up to 160MB), and a modest 3.2GB hard disk. It also ships with a lithium-ion battery that, according to Apple, holds up to six hours of juice.

When opened, the snazzy iBook reveals a white keyboard, a trackpad, and a 12.1-inch activematrix screen. I like the bright white look, but honestly, it reflects too much light onto the display. Also, the screen is a little small for my taste. Most notebooks come with a 14-inch display. which is just large enough so I don't have to strain my eyes while surfing the Web.

As far as multimedia is concerned, the iBook comes with a 24x CD-ROM drive, a built-in mono speaker, and a stereo audio-out port. Apple left out the floppy drive. Apple also left out the credit card-size PCMCIA slot that virtually every other notebook uses to add functionality. A single USB port is all that's provided for expansion.

The iBook also lacks a way to display video on an external computer monitor or television. which makes it a bad choice for corporations that need a portable system for presentations, or for anyone looking to add a larger display.

Who will enjoy the iBook? Any person seeking quick and easy access to the Net. Like the iMac, the iBook has a built-in 56Kbps modem. It also has an Ethernet port, which allows you to hook the system up to speedy cable modems and DSL connections.



But best of all, the iBook comes with a wireless network solution called the AirPort Base Station. This LAN technology (which uses radio frequencies to transfer data) lets you share files, printers. and a single Internet connection among all of your home or office iBooks. But to begin using this feature, you must purchase and install a \$100 network card and the \$300 AirPort. The card snaps into a slot hidden beneath the iBook keyboard. The hub hooks up to your home phone line or cable modem connection. Although wireless network technology isn't anything new, Apple deserves credit for actually building it into the iBook and for making it relatively inexpensive. And fast: Air-Port can transfer data at a lightning-quick 11Mbps.

By and large, Apple engineered a decent and affordable Internet-ready notebook. At 6.7 pounds, it's no lightweight. But it runs fast and is terribly attractive. I have no doubt that, for consumers, it'll become this year's trendy portable computer buy.

JIM LOUOERBACK IS HOST OF ZOTV'S FRESH GEAR.

BUYIT? When All Is Said and Done...

It looks marvelous. And it performs well, too. That said, I thought it was a bit bulky compared with other portable computers. If you're inclined to buy it, just make sure to spend the extra bucks for the AirPort network card, because there's nothing like wireless Web access.

The odds of us not reviewing a new computer are like the odds of you getting eaten by a shark.

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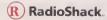
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SEARCHALERT BY DANNY SULLIVAN

Filter out four-letter words and other vulgarities at kid-friendly search engines

UN SEPARATE OUERIES ON THE TERMS FURBY AND TOYS AT A MAJOR search engine and you may be surprised at the results. Seemingly innocuous words and phrases, such as these, can dig up all sorts of salacious Web content.

But there really are ways to protect your kids from porn hucksters and profanity-laden Web sites. For starters, there's YAHOOLIGANS! [yahooligans.com], a kid-friendly version of the Yahoo! directory, where editors have handpicked sites that are suitable for children. At a similar service. ASK JEEVES FOR KIDS! [ajkids.com], your young'uns can ask basic questions (e.g., "Why is the sky blue?") and find educational sites that offer answers. This search service can even spell-check queries.

These editor-powered guides, however, may fall short when your kids are seeking more in-depth answers for, say, the purpose of researching a school term paper. That's when you want to use one of the Web-wide search engines that let you filter out porn.

At GO NETWORK [go.com], parents can enable a porn-andprofanity filter by selecting the "GOguardian" link, which is located just under the site's "Search" field. At ALTAVISTA [altavista.com] and LYCOS [lycos.com], you can find similar parental filtering options. Click "Family Filter" or "Parental Controls," respectively.



PORN FREE: Ask Jeeves for Kids serves up inoffensive Web content.

Of course, using a search engine's filtering option is not a foolproof way to prevent objectionable links from popping up in search results. Now and again, pornography and other things deemed in appropriate for children's young eyes slip through these Web sieves. Conversely, inoffensive Web content, such as educational materials and images of artwork, occasionally get blocked. Still, filtered searches do give parents and teachers a solid first line of defense.

DANNY SULLIVAN RUNS SEARCH ENGINE WATCH [searchenginewatch.com].

SURFGURU

Language translators; redial controls; fast browser upgrades

Where can I find a good, free online language translator. por favor?

Click to a new Web-based service called E-LINGO [www.e-lingo. coml. This fantastic site can translate text, e-mail, and even entire Web sites into English. Spanish, French, German, Italian, and Portuguese. No, the translations aren't perfect. But

SEE THE SURF GURU AT WWW. SURF-GURU COM DAILY AND ON ZDTV'S INTER-NET TONIGHT.

if you need only to get the gist of a document or site that's written in a foreign language, E-lingo should serve you

well enough. Also, check out ALTAVISTA's translation service [babelfish.altavista.com].

I often get a busy signal when I try to log on. Is there a way to



configure my computer to redial automatically for me?

Open your "C:" drive (which is usually labeled "My Computer") and double-click "Dial-Up Networking." In the "Dial-Up Networking" window, select the "File" menu and choose "Connections." (In Windows 98, select the "Connections" menu.) Choose "Settings," and check the "Redial" field. Use the Up and Down arrows next to the heading "Before giving up retry:" to select the number of redial attempts you'd like your computer to make when it receives a busy signal. Click OK.

Guru, what's the simplest and quickest way to upgrade my browser?

Well, that depends on whether you're using Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. In Navigator 4.08 or later, click the "Help" menu and choose "Software Updates." In Explorer 4.x, click the "Help" menu and choose "Product Updates." In Explorer 5.x, click the "lools" menu and choose "Windows Update."

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Ain't No Way to Go

TWO EXPERIENCES UNITE EVERYONE ON Earth: being born and dving, Because birth experiences tend to be fairly homogeneous, we humans focus much more on our mortality, which explains the existence of this massive collection of odd tales of death. The stories run from the absurd (drowning in manure) to the mundane (falling off a bridge while posing for a photo). Although some accounts are tragic, most contain at least some small seed of comedy or justice (such as the slimy defense lawyer who was hit by lightning after

standing in a boat, raising his arms heavenward, and proclaiming, "Here I am!"). [www.aarrgghh.com/no_way]



WITH NAMES LIKE IOHNNY THE FANG. FOUR-TOOTH Willie, and Mothe Hustler, you wouldn't think that the most dangerous gang on the streets today could be made up of babies. And that mistake could send your child on a play date with disaster. Whether it's the womanizing and more-whiskey-in-my-ba-ba style of Sid, or the silent-but-scary Charlie (sporting Charles Manson's head on a baby's body), parents should be on the lookout. If your kid gets mixed up with this crew, he could end up doing a long

stretch in the (play)pen. [www. scarvbabv.com1



Hello, Tarot

1F YOU WANT TO DIVINE THE FUTURE BUT GOTHIC OVERTONES GET you down, it's time for you to try out "Hello, Tarot—the cutest

Tarot deck you will ever own." Each card is lovingly decorated with a scene from the Hello Kitty universe, from the Five of Pentacles through good ol' Death itself. If your fortune could stand to be just a touch sweeter, we think you'll find the \$15 is money well spent. [www. sizer.org/tarot/tarot.htm]



The People's Photos

WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THE PHOTOS YOU LOSE OR THROW AWAY? SOMEONE FINDS them and puts them online. This site is packed with pictures that have

been "discovered on sidewalks, in furniture, left behind by previous homeowners, or fished from drugstore Dumpsters." Tune in for your fill of little kids with cake all over their faces, bodybuilders posing in the privacy of their bedrooms, second-rate vampires, and more bad haircuts than

should be allowable by law. [www. spillway.com/found]

U.S.R.F.: Uncle Spanky's Rocket Farm

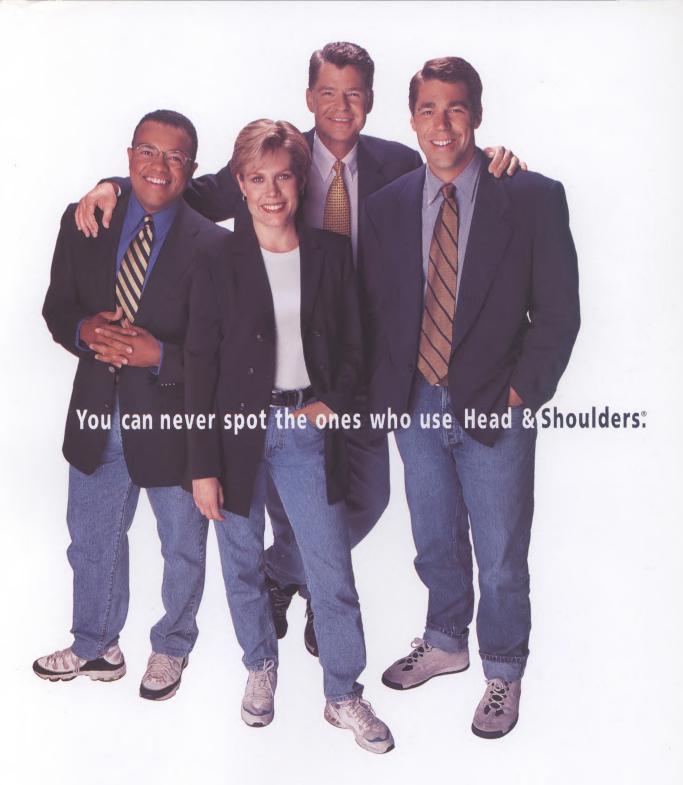
HOPPING MAD THAT ONLY THE CREW-CUT FLYBOYS AT NASA ever get to go into space? Just volunteer at U.S.R.F. After "space monkeys" abducted Uncle Spanky and stole his beer, he began training his

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and those willing to put up with the most cosmic radiation will be able to be violently hurled into the black void of outer space." [www.geocities.com/ ResearchTriangle/8947/inside.html]

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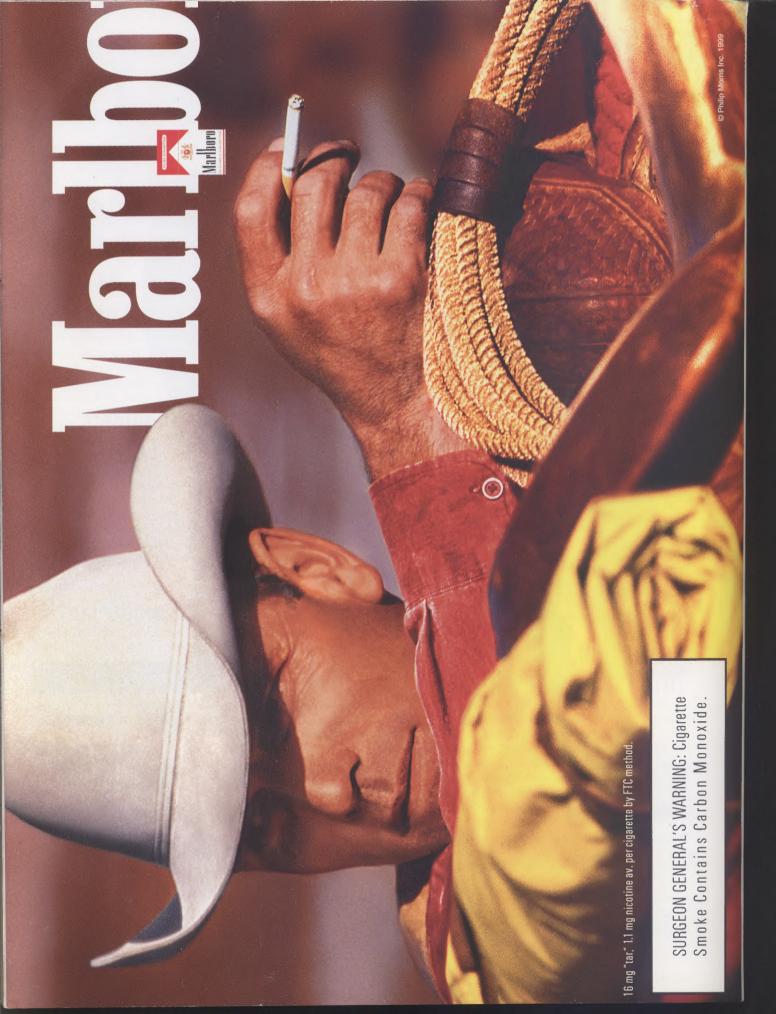


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